

Mr Smith announces ceasefire and release of detainees

Rhodesian deadlock ended dramatically last night with agreement by Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, that he was willing to accept all black political detainees immediately on a ceasefire from the nationalists that the guerrilla war will be brought to a constitutional conference will be held "without

any precondition", he said. Accepting that many whites would feel concerned about the future, Mr Smith said there was no parallel with the situation in Mozambique. It was the firm intention of his Government not to deviate from Rhodesia's "standards of civilization".

Constitutional conference 'without preconditions'

Frederick Cleary
LONDON, Dec 11
Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, said tonight that the war on Rhodesia's northern border would end immediately. A constitutional conference is to be held and all black Rhodesian nationalists and followers are to be released immediately.

Mr Smith continued: "In particular, firstly I have received assurances to the effect that the terrorist activities in Rhodesia will cease immediately and, secondly, that the proposed constitutional conference will take place without any pre-condition."

It was a fallacy, he said, to think that the situation in Rhodesia today was comparable with that which existed in Mozambique before the coup in Portugal last April.

Our Lusaka Correspondent writes: Mr Smith's statement was broadcast live on Zambian radio and television—the first time such a thing has happened.

10 pounds' ruling by Iudis keeps up pressure on sterling

was heavy selling of sterling yesterday and the Bank of England had to give substantial support to the currency.

Some estimates put official support for the pound at between \$150m and \$250m. It is believed that about 20 per cent of Aramco's oil payments to Saudi Arabia had previously been made in pounds, the balance being provided in dollars.

Wilson sees 'a big step forward' in Paris summit

Mr Wilson said the Paris summit was a big step forward. He said he was going to need more time to decide on the new year, but he was confident that the summit would be completed by the end of the year.

In a BBC radio interview, Mr Wilson said that he did not mind associating himself with the principle of European economic and monetary union as an ultimate aim. "We are very many years off that."

Ford's tax plan shelved

Mr Ford, who wants a new income tax increase, has shelved his plan to raise the top rate of income tax to 70 per cent.

Churches unite: In a joint statement yesterday, the four main Northern Ireland churches launched a new peace drive and denounced sectarian killings.

Inequality

Women's many advances, quality is still a long way off. Men will continue in the top jobs in Britain for another 20 years, it is estimated in the Government's new Social Trends report.

Teachers' pay: Average backward increases of about 30 per cent for Britain's 500,000 teachers are likely to be recommended by the Houghton committee next week.

Int talks fail

The failure of last-minute talks between the National Council for the Unemployed and the Government yesterday.

The oil around us: Six-page Special Report on off-shore activities and their significance for industry and the economy.

Three buried in house wrecked by electric storm

Three old age pensioners were buried in rubble as an electrical storm wrecked their home yesterday.

The high wind picked up a 150-ton Boeing 707 at Heathrow airport, London, and threw it against a 747 jumbo jet parked nearby.

Reynolds's Sterne offered to nation

The superb portrait of Laurence Sterne by Sir Joshua Reynolds is being offered to the National Portrait Gallery.

It shows the great master of English humour, on whose lips wit, paradox and digression hang as cornflakes hang on other men's lips.

Future of social contract depends on miners

The future of the social contract hangs in the balance today. It rests on slender hopes that miners' leaders will not endorse their negotiators' militant pay ambitions.

The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers will discuss the recommendation of the negotiating team that the coal board should be asked for an increase of £30 a week across the board for 270,000 miners.

One-day general strike in support of jailed Basques cripples north Spain

A number of communists influenced underground trade unions played an important role in the strike.

The "Day of Struggle" or "Day of Basque unity" as it was called in various clandestine leaflets, also resulted in the closing of most schools in Bilbao, San Sebastian and other Basque towns.

Return of the death penalty rejected by 152 on free vote

The demand for restoration of the death penalty for terrorist murders was defeated in the Commons last night by 369 votes to 217, a majority of 152.

Early in the debate there were signs that many MPs were still wavering and that some were having second thoughts after the early emotional reaction to the Birmingham bombings.

Shots fired after West End club bombing

Three taxi drivers chased two men through the West End of London last night, after a bomb was tossed into the Naval and Army Club in Piccadilly.

The explosion caused extensive damage to the Long Bar at the club, where seven people were sitting. They managed to get out before the explosion, but the barman was taken to St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, with shock and later released.

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Eduardo de Filippo, author

Author hits at Zeffirelli production

Rome, Dec 11
A rucful Eduardo de Filippo ascribes the failure in New York of his play Saturday, Sunday, Monday to Franco Zeffirelli's failure to understand, in his production, either what the play required from the director or what American audiences look for.

This raises the point of why Signor de Filippo was so happy with the London production of the play which was also directed by Signor Zeffirelli and has enjoyed a solid year of success.



Franco Zeffirelli, director

Table with 2 columns: News, Features, etc. and 2 columns: Sports, Entertainment, etc.

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Still the greatest French impressionist... ever



MONSIEUR WORTH
From selected stores and chemists only.

HOME NEWS

Disruption of Fleet Street papers ordered after last-minute peace talks fail

By Alan Hamilton Labour Staff

Disruption of national newspaper publication by key printing workers is to go ahead after the failure of last-minute peace talks between the National Graphical Association and the newspaper publishers yesterday.

The NGA, which represents 5,000 skilled printers in the London and Manchester offices of national papers, and in the two London evenings, has stopped short of calling an all-out strike.

The union is taking the action in pursuit of an improved pay offer from the Newspaper Publishers Association. The publishers' offer of a 5 per cent increase from October, plus another 2 per cent from next April, has been accepted by the other five unions represented in newspaper printing houses.

But the NGA argues that to accept the same offer would disturb traditional differentials by up to 40p a week.

Mr Joseph Wade, a deputy general secretary of the NGA, said after meeting the publishers yesterday: "We are all set now to press the button for action immediately. Instructions have already been sent out to our members; we are better organized this time than before."

Last week the NGA agreed to delay its action for a week to allow the publishers to make approaches to the TUC. Lord Goodman the publishers' chairman had a meeting with Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, on Tuesday, at which he

gave a warning of the danger to employment of other Fleet Street workers should the NGA action go ahead.

On previous occasions Lord Goodman has stated that if publication of national papers was interrupted by NGA action some papers might never reappear.

In a reply to Lord Goodman yesterday Mr Murray made clear that he could not intervene in the dispute, although he expressed the hope that the NGA would feel able to settle on the same terms as the other unions. Mr Murray's letter says:

I am writing to confirm what I told you when you met me here with other representatives of the NGA at your request to inform me about the origin and possible consequences of your dispute with the National Graphical Association. I share your concern at the possibility that in response to work would not only interrupt the publication of newspapers, but possibly jeopardize future employment in the industry. I have carefully examined whether the TUC could be of assistance, but have reached the conclusion that there is no in practice any way in which the TUC could intervene to help resolve the dispute with the NGA, which is not a member of the TUC. The settlement which was very recently reached with the other five unions concerned, which are affiliated to the TUC, has of course been welcomed by the TUC as being within the social contract, and I hope that the National Graphical Association, in its reflection, feel able to accept the suggestion that it should settle on the same basis as those unions, while preserving its right to raise in future negotiations the question of differentials.

As I told you at the meeting, I hope that a way can be found in the near future of restoring the NGA to affiliation to the TUC, when the Association will be able to play its full part in the TUC Printing Industry Committee, which will shortly be established.

After meeting Mr Wade and Mr John Bonfield, the NGA general secretary, yesterday, the NPA issued a statement saying that it was still unable to meet the NGA's demand for maintenance of differentials.

The statement said that the differential question affected only a minority of NGA members involved in the pay claim, but any adjustment, however small, would disturb the agreement with the other unions. It added:

The NPA would wish the public to be aware that they regard it as wholly irresponsible for any industrial action to be taken against the national newspaper industry as a result of a dispute of this character. It is the NPA's belief that it has exhausted every channel of conciliation, having already approached the conciliation service set up by the Government.

The statement added that NGA members involved in the dispute now earn between £75 and £95 a week.

The first newspaper to be affected yesterday was the London Evening News. A work-to-rule by some members of the NGA there caused production delays, and van drivers stopped work to hold a meeting because they alleged that the delay was affecting overtime earnings.

'Let paper print thalidomide article'

The Sunday Times should be allowed to publish an article on the Distillers' Company's alleged liability for thalidomide, even though to do so might be breaking the law. Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, said yesterday in a letter to the Attorney General.

"An injunction was granted preventing The Sunday Times from publishing, but as the Phillimore committee recommendations repudiate the basis of that judgment I hope you will take immediate action in this case," the letter said.

The Phillimore committee, which proposes clarification and liberalizing of the law of contempt, was of profound significance to the British press, Mr Ashley said. He urged Mr Silkin not to await legislation and not to oppose publication of the article.

Signalmen urged to call off unofficial strike

Mr Richard Marsh, chairman of the Railways Board, yesterday appealed to signalmen not to halt trains in Essex and Kent today.

He acknowledged that recent pay reorganization had upset the signalmen and could have altered individual pay differentials. But top signalmen were within the highest paid range and the average weekly earnings of the lowest grade, including weekend pay and overtime, had increased by 27 per cent, to £56, he said.

The signalmen say they were unfairly treated by an agreement accepted recently by the rail unions. They were due to strike unofficially for 24 hours from six o'clock this morning. Trains to Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street, and some in Kent would be affected. Mr Marsh said the men were causing unnecessary disruption and inconvenience. He added: "Both the management and the National Union of Railwaysmen appeal to them to discontinue their action and honour the constitutional procedures between the board and the unions."

Hanging is bad politically and morally, criminologist says

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Reintroduction of capital punishment would be a national disaster, Sir Leon Radzwinowicz, one of the world's foremost criminologists and a former member of the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment, said yesterday, before the Commons vote on hanging.

He said: "It would be bad psychologically, morally and politically; bad for the international reputation of Britain; bad for the cohesiveness and traditions of society; and bad for the effective solution of the Irish question."

Sir Leon was speaking in an interview on the eve of a reception, to be held tonight, by Lord Butler of Saffron Walden in the House of Lords, to mark the publication of a volume of essays on criminology in honour of Sir Leon.

The contributors include professors from Britain, the United States, Italy, Poland, Denmark, Germany and Norway; judges from Britain, France and South Africa; and Sir Leon's former colleagues, students and visiting fellows at Cambridge. Sir Leon retired recently as Wolfson Professor Director of the Cambridge Institute of Criminology. Lord Butler, who writes in the essays about the foundations of the institute, as Home Secretary provided the impetus that helped to make it possible. The title of the volume, *Crime, Criminology and Public Policy*, reflects the impact both of the institute's studies and Sir Leon's career.

It is far from finished. Sir Leon is engaged on an extensive programme of teaching in American law schools, and is travelling the world as a consultant.

Sir Leon sees the growth of terrorist violence as feeding other kinds of violent crime. He said: "If you have a society passing through intense political strife, with violence connected with it, you will have violence connected with crime in uncoordinated harmony. If the criminal law goes too far in respect of capital punishment, or any kind of excessive punishment, it will produce an excessive effect." Changes in criminal procedure might well accentuate political difficulties. "To the democracies, we must look for a political solution to political problems."

But order had to be maintained, he continued. There must be a strong police force,



Sir Leon Radzwinowicz: "Excessive punishment, excessive effect."

you cannot expect criminal law to solve the moral and political problems of society. Capital punishment cannot solve the Irish issue.

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and the police must act within the province of the law.

It was crucial to have a law that was both strong and moderate, Sir Leon said. "Get rid of a lot of the prison system and keep it for the hard core and make it a civilized affair."

"We must get accustomed to a very high level of violent crime that is part of the high level of general crime. Crime will continue to rise as far as we can see."

Crime, Criminology and Public Policy: Essays in Honour of Sir Leon Radzwinowicz, edited by Roger Hood (Heinemann, £12.50).

IRA threat of 'two to one' reprisals hangings

Hamburg, Dec. 11.—Mr D O'Connell, chief of staff of Provisional IRA is to be quizzed tomorrow as saying, on the eve of the Commons vote on capital punishment, that his organization would hang two British soldiers for every IRA man hanged in Britain.

That would continue, O'Connell says in the magazine *Stern*, "until the British stop."

The magazine said it interviewed Mr O'Connell at a rendezvous outside Dublin distributed the text of the interview today to news agencies, saying that it would appear in the magazine tomorrow.

In the interview Mr O'Connell denied IRA involvement in cent bombings in Britain including those in Birmingham which killed 21.

He is quoted as saying: "IRA leadership did not renege on its attacks. In fact we are conducting a detailed inquiry to seek out those possible."

"In England there are anarchist groups like the A Brigade or Red Hand 74. I blame the IRA for the last Tower of London blast, were wrong. That was carried out by a group which I want to name yet."

If IRA members had tried such attacks would be court-martialled could face the gallows, Mr O'Connell said.

"The IRA has clear lines for waging its war. attack on non-military institutions must be preceded by a warning so that no innocent civilians are caught. Attacks like those in Birmingham are murder." Mr O'Connell is quoted as saying that peace bet Britain and the IRA is possible given certain conditions. They were phased out of Northern Ireland and general amnesty for political prisoners in England. Prisons as well as Catholics, a public declaration by the British that the Irish people will be allowed to decide their future.—Reuter.

Aims of Industry criticizes unions

The Fleet Street newspaper industry is technologically backward and overstaffed with the highest-paid workers in the country, Aims of Industry says in evidence to the Royal Commission on the Press.

The main reason, the organization says, are a placatory management and militant unions willing and able to exploit their strength. It was striking that so many newspapers had managed to survive.

Aims of Industry calls for a reorganization of practices and production techniques in the industry to prevent more newspapers from closing. Newspapers should cost more, advertising rates should rise, and there should be greater encouragement for more regional daily newspapers.

A stand must be made against attacks on press freedom, primarily the threat to freedom of expression through censorship of editorial and advertising content. Cases of

newspaper employees bringing pressure against cartoons, comment and advertisements, some of them Aims of Industry's, are referred to in the evidence.

The organization says: "We believe that these instances represent a frightening attack on the press's freedom and should concern everyone." Hospital check: Sir Morris Finer, chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press, has entered hospital for a few days for a check.

Energy Saving A Loan Scheme For Industry

The Department of Energy has a new loan scheme for industry to encourage the more efficient use of all forms of energy. Short term loans up to £100,000 are available. Examples of the type of energy saving project which qualify are: measures to reduce heat loss in industrial buildings; replacement or renovation of machinery, plant and equipment; introduction of new automatic control devices; installation of heat exchangers and pre-heaters to make use of waste heat; installation of combined heat and power schemes. Projects must promise sufficient energy savings to cover capital and interest in four years. The scheme is for industrial premises in Great Britain but does not apply to Northern Ireland. If you would like full details about this new loan scheme for industry, send the coupon below to: Department of Energy, Energy Saving Loan Scheme, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ. Please send me details of the Energy Saving Loan Scheme for industry. (USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

NAME, ADDRESS, POST CODE, FIRM

Littlejohn brother retaken in Birmingham

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Keith Littlejohn, who escaped from Mountjoy prison, Dublin, nine months ago, was arrested by West Midlands police in Birmingham yesterday. I understand that detectives surrounded a house in Alum Rock and Mr Littlejohn surrendered quietly.

Detective Chief Superintendent Harry Robinson, head of the CID, said last night: "Littlejohn has now been detained following very extensive inquiries extending over a period of time. We have many other inquiries to make and we have been in touch with Dublin police."

Asked when Mr Littlejohn would be appearing before the court Mr Robinson said: "Certain formalities will have to be gone through."

It is understood that after the raid on the house two other men left with police officers and are assisting inquiries. The police are anxious to know how long Mr Littlejohn has been in the city.

Extradition warrant: The Dublin authorities said last night that several Irish policemen would go to Birmingham today with an extradition warrant for Mr Littlejohn (a Staff Reporter writes). The bank robber and self-confessed British agent escaped on March 11 after serving eight months of a 20-year sentence for his part in the robbery of £57,000 from Allied Irish Banks in Dublin in October, 1972.

Mr Littlejohn's brother, Keith, who is serving 15 years for his part in the robbery, is to appeal next year against the dismissal by the Dublin High Court of proceedings in which he sought to have his sentence quashed.

Christopher Walker writes: The receipture will reopen controversy about the exact nature of Mr Littlejohn's involvements with the British intelligence services. The Littlejohn affair has been a continuing source of embarrassment to the British Government. There is incontrovertible evidence that he had connexions with British intelligence, but it has never been satisfactorily established that he was paid to act as an agent provocateur in the Republic of Ireland.

Lucan nursemaid inquest

The inquest on Mrs Sandra Rivett, nursemaid to the children of Lord and Lady Lucan, was adjourned until next March yesterday by Dr Gavin Thurston, the Westminster coroner. No witnesses were called.

At the previous hearing Mrs Rivett, who was 29, was said to have died from head injuries in an incident at Lady Lucan's home in Lower Belgrave Street, Westminster. Two warrants have been issued against Lord Lucan, alleging that he murdered Mrs Rivett and attempted to murder his wife.

Church leaders in Ulster plead for end to killings

From Robert Fisk Belfast

Leaders of the four main churches in both parts of Ireland are today launching what they describe as a joint peace campaign, directed at moderates and at "every gunman" and bomber and all who advocate or indulge in violence.

Apparently prompted by the sectarian murders, the political vacuum and potential war weariness in both communities, the churches are advertising in newspapers and holding special services to emphasize their unity of opposition to violence.

A letter to all churches in the province appealing for prayers for peace has been signed by Cardinal Conway, Archbishop of Armagh, Dr Temple Lundy, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Rev Desmond Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Church of Ireland Primate, Dr Simons.

The churches say they do not see their function as negotiators and are not trying to replace political representatives. A joint statement says the campaign is aimed at the entire population, and that it is the churches' duty to speak now, and in unison.

The psychological moment to take this initiative is now "when the appalling realities of the situation are more widely recognized than ever before." That is an obvious reference to the Birmingham bombings, which may have helped to prompt the religious campaign. Sources close to one of the churches involved, however, suggested yesterday that the somewhat non-assertive policies adopted by Mr Rees, the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, may also have concerned the religious leaders.

The church statement says the four "feel there is such a sickening revulsion everywhere against violence, such a sense of unutterable shame on Ireland's name, and such a grim foreboding of a drift into something much worse still, that the campaign is essential and urgently compelling."

Flights cut: The Army has been forced to cut the number of flights undertaken by almost half its helicopter fleet in Northern Ireland because of a shortage of spare parts. The 15 or so Scout helicopters, many of which are used for patrols along the border, are being maintained with equipment from aircraft in other parts of the United Kingdom. All units in the province have been told not to fly Scouts unnecessarily.

The instruction says that only essential operational tasks should be undertaken. It was sent from headquarters at Lisburn over a month ago, and is also believed to contain a warning that if the shortage worsens restrictions may be imposed on flying time. The restriction might be put at a maximum of 60 hours a month for each machine.

Irish youth dre bomb circuits 'out of boredom'

An Irish youth accuse conspiring to cause explosion told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had seen bomb circuits in a moment of boredom. He had learnt when in prison in the Republic of Ireland for possession of ammunition.

Michael MacLochlainn, 17, of Bogside, Londonderry, said in a statement from dock that he came to Belfast after leaving prison in February, but not to bombs or select targets.

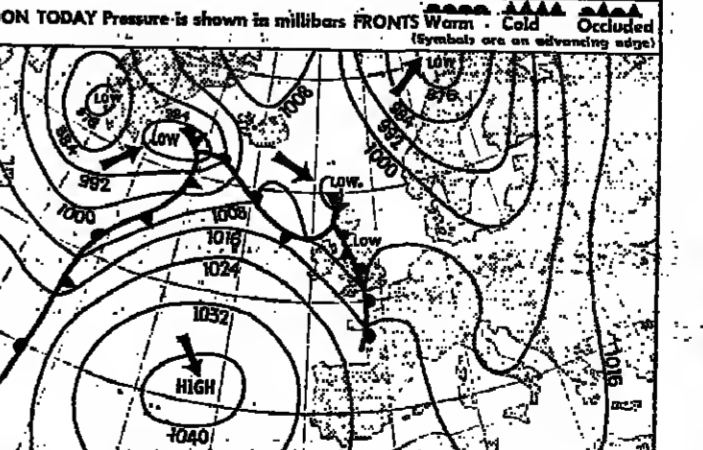
He said: "I attempted conceal my identity as I did want the police to know my presence in this country, cause of my having been violently involved in the struggle for the right of Irish people self-determination."

He and John Coughlan, 27, of Tullamore, Offaly, pleaded not guilty to conspiring to cause explosions. Mr Coughlan, who was jailed in Dublin for possessing explosives ammunition, said he came to Britain to get away from harassment. He used a identity because his conviction might make things difficult. The trial continues today.

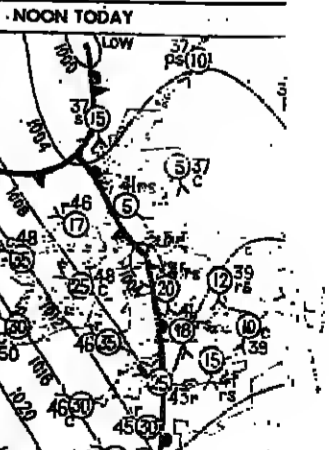
Life sentence

Thomas McClure, aged 27, Belfast sheet-metal worker, jailed for life yesterday for deriding two Catholic hrot during the Ulster Workers' Council strike in May. He pleaded guilty to the murder of Sean Byrne, aged 54, owner of the Wayside Halt public house near Ballymena, and his hrot Brendan, aged 45.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm - Cold Occluded (symbols on an underlying page) Sun rises: 7.57 am Sun sets: 3.52 pm Moon rises: 6.42 am Moon sets: 2.59 pm New Moon: Tomorrow. Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.28 am. High water: London Bridge, 12.24 am, 6.5m (22.5ft); 12.46 pm, 6.7m (22.1ft); Ayrmouth, 8.57 am, 12.5m (41.0ft); 6.20 pm, 12.6m (41.3ft); Dover, 9.52 am, 6.3m (20.7ft); 10.21 pm, 6.3m (20.8ft); Hull, 4.45 am, 6.9m (22.6ft); 5.10 pm, 7.6m (23.0ft); Liverpool, 10.2 am, 8.4m (27.5ft); 10.25 pm, 8.3m (27.1ft).



NOON TODAY spreading to most parts du Saturday; becoming less cold. Sea passages: S North Sea, W to S, fresh or strong; moderate or rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E); Wind SW, fresh strong, becoming NW, strong gale; sea rough. Yesterday London: Temp: max., 6 am to 1 pm, 7.5°C (45.5°F); min., 6 pm to 1 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity: 67 to 71 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 p.m. 0.9in. Sun, 24hr to 6 p.m. 5.5 hr. Bar. mean sea-level: 6 pm 1011 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; au, snow. Table with columns for location, temp, wind, etc.

HOME NEWS

Men will go on getting the top jobs in Britain for at least another twenty years, statisticians say

Men will continue to command the top jobs in Britain at least the next twenty years on present trends, a recent publication implies...

in school structures and organization. Boys and girls took different subjects and examinations at school because of complex and subtle social pressures and expectations...

the more difficult it would be to pick up the threads later and to adjust to a situation where many male colleagues of the same age had been promoted to senior jobs...

Saltmarsh is one of three new reserves

One of the best surviving examples of saltmarsh in the Thames estuary, which until recently was threatened by commercial development, is to be preserved as one of three new natural nature reserves...

Writers' group gives cold welcome to proposed legislation to pay authors for books in libraries

Legislation on public lending rights will be introduced in the new year, Mr Jenkins, Under Secretary of State, with responsibility for the arts, said yesterday...



Miss Brigid Brophy: challenging Mr Jenkins.

introduced, "a life's work of 800 pages justifies a higher payment than an essay of 50 pages and I propose therefore to base payments on the published price..."

House five years empty upsets judge

A judge in the High Court yesterday criticized the Crown Estate commissioners for leaving a property in the London borough of Camden empty for nearly five years while there were so many homeless...

Weak image' of race board deters cases

Trevor Fishlock says people are not taking racial discrimination to the Race Relations Board because they believe it is too weak effectively...

they cannot be served while wearing turbans. In other cases public order officers serving non-whites in the public bar but will not serve them in the lounge...

In brief

Liberal policy committee

Mr John Pardo, Liberal MP for Cornwall, North, and party spokesman on Treasury questions, is to serve as another year as chairman of the Liberal standing committee on policy...

£25 IRA echo

Paul Raven, aged 27, of The Chase, Gullhouse, Coventry, was fined £25 at Coventry yesterday...

York Minster

Floodlighting at York Minster will be switched off for three months from January in response to the Government's call to save energy...

£13,000 for burns

Mr Ronald Richard Crow, aged 30, of Queen's Drive, Finsbury Park, London, a gas man who was severely burnt in a leak, was awarded £13,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday...

Glasgow to embark on £100m programme rehabilitation for tenement homes

John Young, Glasgow Housing Corporation director, says the work on the largest housing litigation programme take in Britain is due to begin in Glasgow next month...

be badly housed in 1990. More over the pressure of public opinion has put a stop to further high-rise building and officials are encountering increasing resistance to the idea of moving out to new estates...

blocks of 12 homes, built in the late nineteenth century to accommodate immigrants from the Highlands and from Ireland, are still structurally sound. Unlike the back-to-backs of English industrial cities they lend themselves readily to rehabilitation...

EC likely to break up Britain, MP says

Political Staff say the price of entry into the EC "is likely to be the up of the United Kingdom as we know it", Mr Jim Sillars MP for Ayrshire, told London Fabians last night when he spoke of the shape of Scottish government...

at Brussels would be of greater value than direct representation at Westminster. Mr Sillars added: "It is inconceivable that we shall rest content with continued membership at a weaker Westminster while other small nations, such as Belgium, Denmark, Southern Ireland, and the tiny state of Luxembourg, take their place as of right at the top policy table of the EEC..."

Roman Catholic Creed altered

The change from "I believe" to "We believe..." in the opening words of the Creed in the English version of the Mass has been ordered by the Roman Catholic bishops of England, Wales, and Scotland from next April...

Decree for Mrs Tate

Mrs Sheila Tate, wife of Mr Henry Saxoo Tate, executive committee chairman of Tate and Lyle, was granted a decree nisi in the Divorce Court yesterday in an uncontested case because of his adultery.

Some approved heaters are unsafe, says 'Which?'

Cheap electric fires on the market may still be dangerous despite recent legislation in the Consumer Protection Act designed to improve safety, according to Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, today...

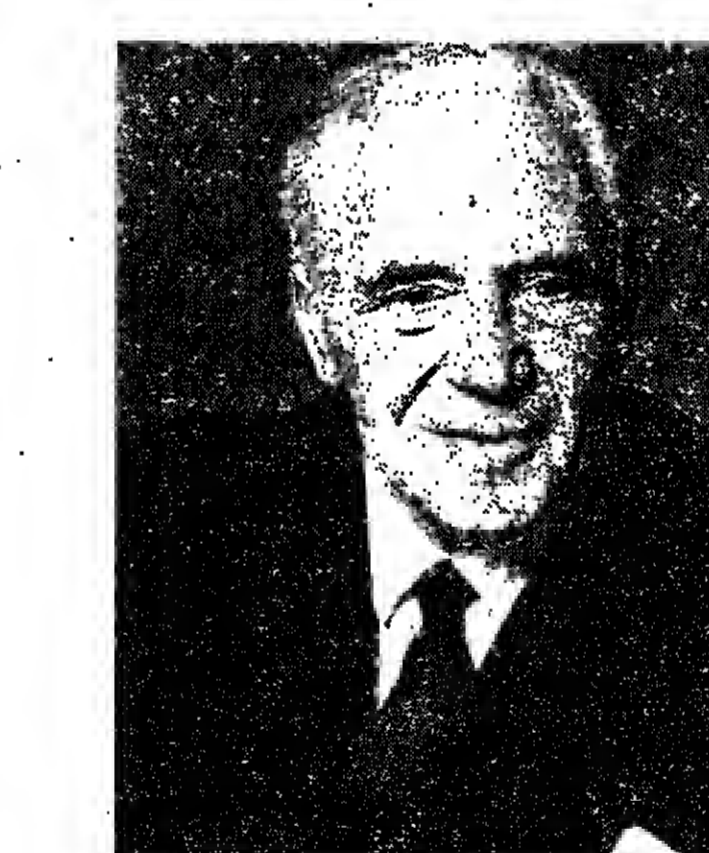
Oxford college dances must make less noise

Oxford college commemorations must be quieter next year or they may be banned, Dr Dermot Roaf, senior proctor has said in a letter to all college deans and junior common room presidents...

Guillotine man for Broadmoor

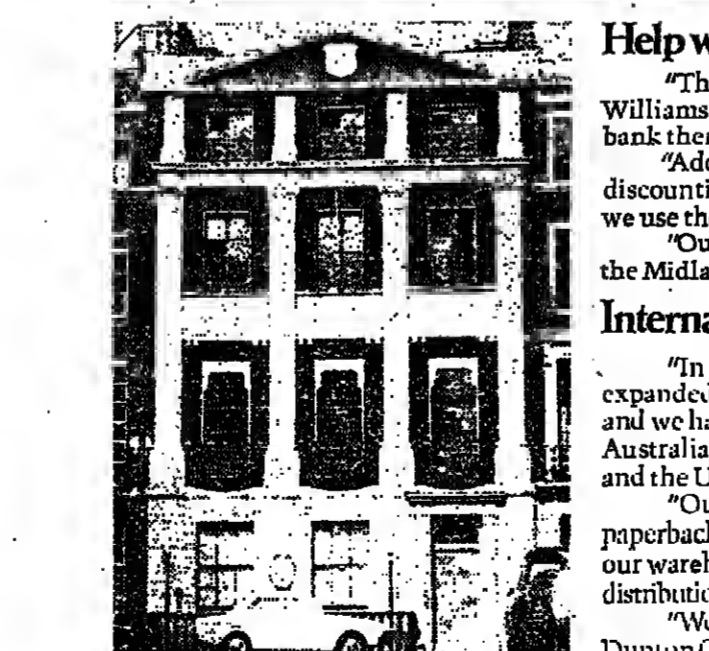
Peter Wilson, aged 51, of Wiltshire Farm, Downton, near Salisbury, who held two men prisoner for almost 24 hours, one with his head under a bone-mad guillotine, was committed to Broadmoor by Wiltshire Crown Court yesterday...

"Our relationship with Midland Bank is not simple—their services are integrated into the whole structure of our business"



Paul Hodder-Williams, Chairman of Hodder and Stoughton

Hodder and Stoughton was founded in 1868 by T.W. Stoughton and M.H. Hodder, the great-grandfather of the present Chairman. Starting with religious books, the Company has developed to become one of Britain's major general publishers with subsidiary companies all over the world...



Help whenever we've needed it. "This company has banked with the Midland from the beginning," Mr Hodder-Williams continued, "and that's more than a century ago. In fact, most of our senior staff also bank there privately..."

Midland Bank Group advertisement with logo and list of subsidiaries.

HOME NEWS

Houghton committee likely to recommend 30 per cent pay increases for teachers

By Tim Devlin Education Correspondent The Houghton committee of inquiry into teachers' pay and their professional structure is likely to recommend very large increases for teachers who make teaching their career and for head teachers.

effect will be to widen the salary gap between teachers at different stages of their career, and to induce them to stay in the profession. The pay of lecturers in polytechnics would be increased to bring them more into line with rates for university dons.

It seeks to change the Education Act of 1944, placing the onus on local education authorities to take account of parents' wishes when assigning children to schools. It will also seek an appellate tribunal for parents who think they have been hardly treated.

Rise in baby battering 'is linked to illegitimacy'

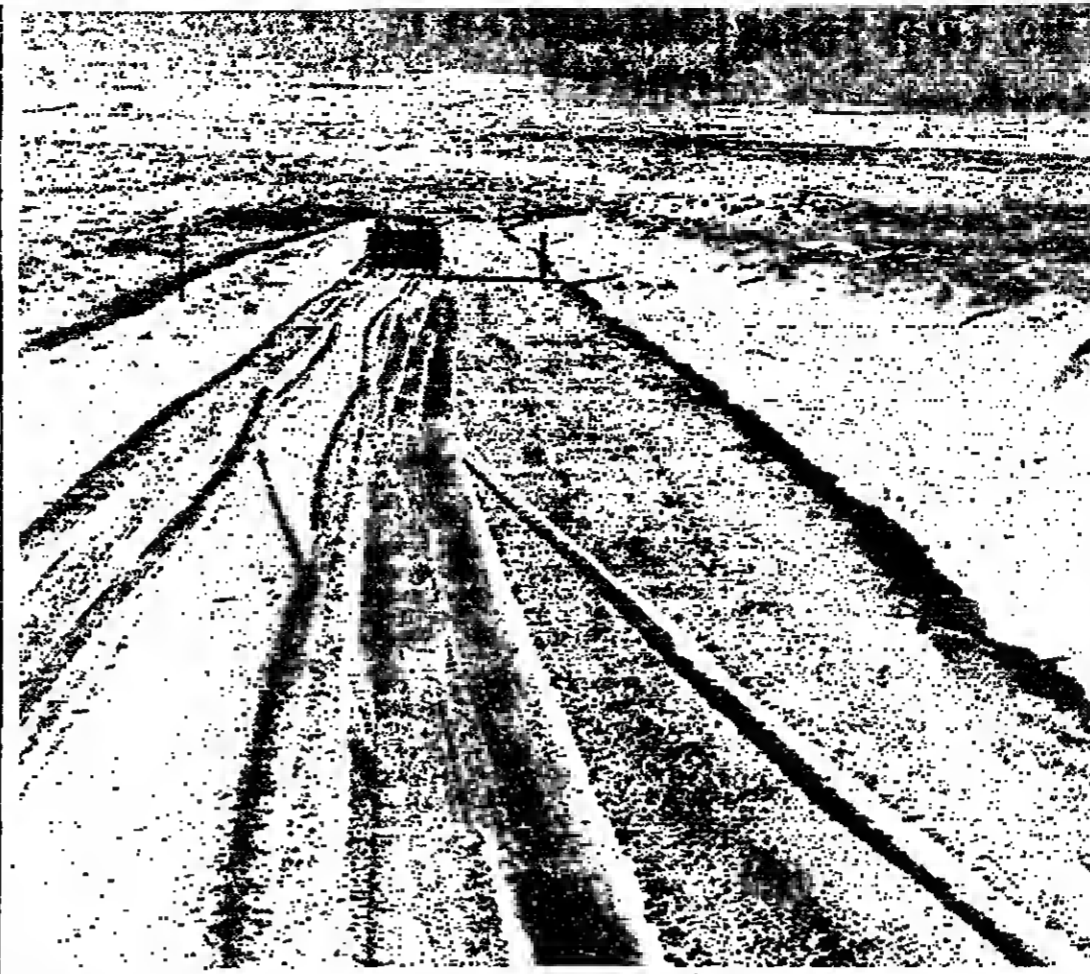
By Our Medical Correspondent The change in society's attitude to extramarital sexual activity may be more important than poverty or poor housing in causing the present frequency of assaults on babies by their parents, a psychiatrist reports.

No bar on child-killer caring for family

John Auckland, who killed two of his baby daughters in six years, could take custody of his remaining two children on release from prison, Mr Derek Clephan, legal adviser to Barnsley council, Yorkshire, said yesterday.

Medicine 'ignoring elderly'

From John Chartres Manchester The increasing trend for doctors to establish group practices was quoted in Manchester yesterday as an example of bow modern "efficiency" militates against the genuine welfare of old people.



Snow in the Cleveland Hills, Yorkshire, yesterday.

Hint of new incentive plan after coal talks

From Ronald Kershaw Newcastle upon Tyne Strong indications that the National Coal Board is preparing another productivity incentive scheme emerged after a meeting between Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the board, and representatives of the unions in the mining industry at Gateshead, Tyne-side, yesterday.

Cash for hill farms to move cattle to shelter

By Our Agricultural Correspondent The Government yesterday offered to pay upland farmers who move livestock off the hills this winter to protect them from malnutrition through shortage of feed.

Change of mind on oil tax

By Our Political Staff Opposition frontbenchers believe the Government is changing its mind and considering a variable rate for the prior-charge tax in the Oil Taxation Bill.

Government to help housing cooperatives

The Government has set up a working party to examine the development of housing cooperatives and tenant participation in housing management.

Complaints 'failing to reach airlines'

By Arthur Reed Air Correspondent Although about thirty million passengers passed through Britain during 1973-74, only 181 complaints were made to the Airline Complaints Committee.

Former solicitor jailed for fraud

Richard Adrian Lester, a former solicitor, was jailed for three and a half years yesterday for obtaining £103,000 in loans for bogus land deals and selling two cars and a yacht while they were still being paid for.

Danger of powerful forces escaping from rule of law

By Our Legal Correspondent Unless industrial relations were governed within a legal framework there would be a real risk of forces of great power in our society escaping from the rule of law altogether.

Busmen's pay deal

Delegates representing 90,000 provincial company busmen yesterday accepted a pay settlement giving them a basic weekly wage of at least £30.60.

Sterling's struggle helps sale rooms shine

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent There is nothing like a fall in the sterling exchange rate to cheer the sale room going.

Teaching nurses leave for better prospects

By Our Medical Reporter Because nurse tutors are leaving to take other jobs, the 77,000 pupil nurses in Britain are getting only the bare bones of training.

Television news film awards

Lord Harris, Minister of State, Home Office, responsible for broadcasting, last night presented the Royal Television Society's British Television News Film of the Year awards for 1974 in London.

WEST EUROPE

Nato rejects Dutch plan to cut back on tactical nuclear arms

From Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent Brussels, Dec 11 A Dutch suggestion to reduce the role of tactical nuclear weapons in the defence of Western Europe received no support at the meeting today of the Nato Defence Planning Committee.

Damages of one franc in 'Jesus trial'

Troyes, Dec 11.—A French district court today convicted the Abbé Georges de Nantes, an ultra-conservative priest, of libelling Maitre Jacques Isorni, a famous member of the French bar, in a dispute over the alleged guilt of the Jews in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

French Government to aid Communist newspaper

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 11 The French Government has decided to lend financially to the aid of L'Humanité, the Communist Party newspaper, which constantly has it under attack.

Why Poppy Day?

In remembering the dead by wearing a Poppy it's sometimes easy to forget that the money you give for it is to support the living—the dependants and disabled not only of two World Wars but also of the many "little wars" between and since.

INCURABLES

DON'T LET OUR NAME WORRY YOU The name doesn't worry our severely disabled patients. They come here to live in homelike surroundings often for 1 years or more.

From Riches to Rags?

Not quiet—but death and disease reduce many young families to poverty overnight. YOU CAN HELP MITIGATE THEIR SUFFERING by sending donations to...

The Oilman's Airline. From London Airport Gatwick you can fly by British Caledonian scheduled services to the oil centres of the world. Accra, Amsterdam, Brussels, Casablanca, Dakar, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Lagos, Monrovia, Rotterdam, Tripoli.

Correction. The wifes omoaie de Vivaggio, mentioned in a Special Report "Wines and Spirits" on December 2, comes from Figari, Corsica, not Cyprus.

EUROPEAN SUMMIT

French press sceptical of achievements at summit meeting

By Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 11.—So much cold water was poured on the Paris summit...

Hope that budget accord will keep Britain in Nine

By Roger Berthoud
Brussels, Dec 11.—Diplomats today thought the most positive aspects were the agreement on Britain's budgetary burden...

Text of communiqué issued after EEC summit conference in Paris

Paris, Dec 11.—The full text of the communiqué, issued after the EEC summit meeting here yesterday, reads:
1. The Heads of Government of nine states of the Community...



Mr Wilson arriving back at No 10 yesterday after the EEC summit talks in Paris.

Mr Wilson's attitude is praised by Herr Schmidt

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, Dec 11.—Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, went out of his way in the Bundestag today to express his appreciation of Mr Wilson's "constructive attitude" at the EEC summit in Paris.

Hostaform on target



Superbly accurate air rifle, pistols and sporting guns are synonymous with the name of Webley and Scott, long established producers of quality products for experts and enthusiasts alike.

WHITAKER fills that memory gap. All the answers, all the facts, about the year just going—the year of the twice-reformed Labour government and two new Parliaments...

Europe 'stronger with British participation'
From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 11.—M. Jean Monnet, the president of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe...

Hochst-for plastics, and service. TO: HOECHST U.K. Ltd., Plastics Dept., Hoechst House, Salesbury Road, Hounslow, Middx. TW4 6JH. Telephone: 01-570 7712.

OVERSEAS

Mr Ford accepts that Congress will not pass tax increase plan but rejects idea of wage controls

From Frank Voel United States Economic Correspondent Washington, Dec 11 President Ford has given up hope that the Congress will pass his proposed 5 per cent income tax increase. He told congressional leaders today that he is open-minded on new policies to fight inflation and recession, but sees no need for wage and price controls.

The dual problems of inflation and recession. The surtax was a key element in this programme, as were substantial budget cuts, which the Congress now seems likely to largely reject. Democrats in Congress have come out strongly for controls on wages, prices, profits and rents, but Mr Nessel stated that the President told the congressional leaders that there was no need for stand-by authority or mandatory controls.

Mr Murphy refuses to discuss his wife's business during Australian Senate questions Miss Morosi hits back at innuendoes

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Dec 11 Miss Juni Morosi, who earlier this week declined an offer to join the staff of Dr Cairns, the Deputy Prime Minister, as his private secretary, gave a press conference in Sydney today. Facing the television and press cameras, she calmly answered questions after question and undoubtedly made a favourable impression by her candour and composure. She told the reporters: "I feel I have been used by certain interests in an effort to embarrass the Labour Government. I regard the stories which have been circulating about my sexual relations with Cabinet ministers as baseless innuendoes. There is absolutely no truth in them at all. What I have found as particularly hurtful is the effect all this controversy has had upon my family. That has been most distressing."



ways carried on in Australia and if this was from other activities. He was unable to tell the Senate about the activities of Ethiopian Airways in Australia, he replied. "Even if I were, it is not within my ministerial portfolio." He added: "I do not intend to enter into the business affairs of my wife in this Chamber. I do not think the Senate would expect me to and I do not intend to." He was cheered by Labour senators. Mrs Murphy has worked as a public relations consultant for Ethiopian Airways. The airline's representative in Australia is Mr Ditchburn. Sir John Kerr, the Governor General, today swore to Dr Cairns as Federal Treasurer and Mr Frank Green, the former Treasurer, as Minister for Overseas Trade, the post previously held by Dr Cairns.

Zeffirelli realism made author 'shudder'

Continued from page 1 An ethos of them not mad were idiots. His explanation of what went wrong in the production and another was: "In London, Zeffirelli was dealing with an organic group of actors who had worked together and knew each other over a long period, actors who work with passion and with competence and who, if told to do something by the producer, want to know why." He had been told that Olivier, Plowright, and Finlay, as well as the others, continually went back to the text to understand ideas and actions which they did not find convincing, and they rehearsed at length.

Martial law imposed after Rangoon riots

Rangoon, Dec 11.—The Burmese Government today declared martial law in Rangoon and placed the city under curfew after widespread destruction and looting. One person was killed and three others were wounded when police opened fire as thousands of rioters set fire to vehicles and Government buildings. A statement by the State Council said emergency measures were prompted by "mob rule which had become widespread."

Declaration for International Women's Year

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Dec 11 International Women's Year, which is due to start on January 1, was given a send-off in a ceremony at the United Nations yesterday. Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, of Iran, presented Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary General, with a declaration on women's rights which had been endorsed by 55 governments, including Britain.

Dr Shtern's trial opens in Ukrainian town

Moscow, Dec 11.—Dr Mikhail Shtern, a Jew, went on trial in the Ukrainian town of Vinnytsa today on charges of bribery and swindling, dissident Jews present at the trial's opening said. In a telephone call to correspondents from Vinnytsa, Mr Alexander Goldfarb, an activist, said he and two fellow observers who travelled specially from Moscow and several relatives and friends of Dr Shtern, were among about 50 people allowed to attend today's session.

Police seize S. African churchmen's passports

From Michael Knipic Cape Town, Dec 11 The South African Government today publicly exercised its authority to demand the surrender of passports held by St. Andrew's Anglican Churchmen in Cape Town and Johannesburg to seize the passports of dissenting churchmen. The victims were six leading members of the anti-apartheid Christian Institute, including Dr C. F. Beyers Naude, the institute's director. A squad of 10 policemen took part in the raid on the institute's office in Johannesburg, entering the offices of five officials. In Cape Town two policemen were waiting at the home of the Rev Theo Kotze, the institute's Cape director, when he returned from a meeting in Johannesburg. They refused to allow him to use his telephone until he parted with his passport.

Grenades kill three in Tel Aviv cinema

Tel Aviv, Dec 11.—A man hurled hand grenades into a Tel Aviv cinema tonight and killed three people, including himself, Israel Radio reported. At least 44 people were wounded. Five grenades were thrown during the evening's second show, three of them from the balcony to the seating area of the ground floor and two of them in the balcony itself. It was not clear if all the grenades went off. Some eyewitnesses said there were five loud, brilliant explosions. But police reportedly found and defused some unexploded grenades. Teams of troops, police and ambulances raced to the Chen cinema at Dizengoff Circle, at the heart of Tel Aviv, and sealed off the district. Mr Han Mehlur, who was in the cinema, said: "There were about 200 people downstairs but most of them were sitting in the back section. The man tossed five grenades downstairs towards the front. They exploded. The haags were horrible. Everybody threw themselves to the floor.—Reuter."

Tough Nixon adviser weeps at trial

From Fred Emery Washington, Dec 11 Mr John Ehrlichman, the most defiant of Mr Nixon's associates, has surprised the hard men of Washington by weeping at the Watergate trial. An even greater surprise was that he did not live up to his defence counsel's promise of blaming all the cover-up on the former President. Mr Ehrlichman was far more gentle, suggesting only his regret that Mr Nixon had not followed his advice to expose the cover-up. Mr Nixon, he suggested, regretted it, too. The break in this resilient man's composure came not in any confession or expression of remorse, but when he spoke of what he had asked Mr Nixon to tell his five children. Mr Ehrlichman, giving evidence yesterday in his own defence was taken by his counsel through the emotional story of his marriage from the President in April, 1973, when he, along with Mr H. R. Haldeman, was asked to resign over Watergate. At the end, he said, Mr Nixon had offered again to help with legal fees. Mr Ehrlichman said he refused. Mr Nixon, also weeping at that time, had asked if there were anything he could do. Mr Ehrlichman continued: "I said that sometime I'd like him to explain to our children. The witness sobbed at this. His wife who was in court also had tears on her cheeks. Judge Sirica called a recess to allow Mr Ehrlichman to compose himself. When he returned Mr Ehrlichman insisted on finishing his evidence yesterday. He was asking me to leave. That basic ally was the end of our marriage." Mr Ehrlichman, whose main defence to the charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice that he was deceived by Mr Nixon into being an unwitting accomplice in a cover-up which he was trying to expose, pleaded the pining on April 29 at Asp Lodge at Camp David. Hitherto he has affected to appear untroubled by his early trial and Senate ordeals. He demurely has been that of a tough chief presidential adviser on domestic affairs, a post occupied for four years. Now he recalled that President had been "very ci tionally upset." Mr Nixon he regretted having to ask closest advisers to resign. "I felt I had tried to be his science. He said in reflection my judgment had become correct and that he would like to have me with attorney fees needed them. He said he had a large sum of money that could share." This was presumed to be another reference to a fund some \$200,000 to \$300,000 which Mr Nixon said his friends Ben Roberts had available in contributions. The existence of the fund was disclosed by a recording played at the trial week. The fact that Mr Nixon, the taped conversation with Haldeman and Mr Ehrlichman had shared and so forth, raised many new questions about a "slush fund" which Mr Ehrlichman and Mr Haldeman refuse to offer of financial assistance. Giving his evidence yesterday Mr Ehrlichman emphasized the offer had indeed been refused.

Mounted police charge crowd at Boston school

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Dec 11 Violence flared up again in South Boston today after a white pupil of 17 had been stabbed in the abdomen at the high school. About 600 angry whites converged on the school to prevent the black pupil from leaving. They dispersed only after being charged by mounted police. Bricks, stones, clubs and eggs were thrown at the six mounted policemen as they led the charge. Several policemen were reported to have been injured and some members of the crowd were arrested. Officials ordered the closing of the school for the rest of the week, in the hope that a cooling-off period would relieve the tensions. Most of the white parents in South Boston have been boycotting the school since pupils began being brought from Roxbury, a neighboring area, at the beginning of school year in September. There have also been inter-racial tensions between black and white pupils in several of the other schools, and these have continued today. At Hyde Park High School, extra police were called in; teachers detected a particularly tense atmosphere. At Roslindale High School, a number of pupils walked out after a betwee blacks and whites yesterday. Elsewhere a carrying black pupils was seen by whites. In South Boston, a youth of 18 was charged assault and battery in connection with the stabbing at the school. The victim was seen to be on the danger list.

House affirms aid on arms

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 11 The suspension of American military assistance to Turkey was affirmed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives today. The suspension went into effect at midnight last night under the terms of a continuing resolution. In a technically separate move, the house rejected, as part of the passage of the new Foreign Aid Bill, a Senate extension of the deadline until mid-February. Instead, by a vote of 297 to 98, it adopted an amendment by Mr Benjamin Rosenblum making the suspension mandatory if Turkey withdrew its troops from Cyprus.

In brief

622 go free in Philippines Manila, Dec 11.—President Marcos of the Philippines announced the release of 622 martial law prisoners by a clemency amnesty for people in an alleged right-wing plot to assassinate him, including many members of the Oropesa. In a nationwide broadcast said that "assassins" were covered by presidential amnesty because they were "criminals moved by personal motives." British safety officer Bahrain electrocuted Bahro, Dec 11.—Mr George, aged 55, the British safety officer of the rain Petroleum Company, electrocuted today while fighting a fire on a power mission pole damaged by winds.—Reuter. Tanker blast deaths Yokohama, Dec 11.—people died and seven were hurt today in explosion on board a 261-ton oil tanker identified as Shell No 6, Tokyo bay berth. Sun mission goes west Cape Canaveral, Dec 11.—The West German-built spacecraft, has streaked into orbit at 21,000 miles per hour on its way to its formation about the sun's on Earth and space.

Ex-White House man guilty

Washington, Dec 11.—Another sometime power at the White House was convicted today in federal court of an election fund offence. Mr Harry Dent, of South Carolina, who managed Mr Nixon's discredited and racially divisive "southern strategy," pleaded guilty of concealment of contributions. The judge placed him on unsupervised probation for a month.

Scali speech on 'tyranny' denounced at UN

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Dec 11 The United States and other Western countries came under heavy fire in the United Nations today when the developing countries mounted a counterattack on their criticism of this year's General Assembly. Speaker answered Friday's speech by Mr John Scali, the American representative, in which he spoke of the "tyranny of the majority." It was simply that times had changed, he said, and that the American majority in the past, he said, had the majority they had in the past. Mr Abdellatif Rabah, the Algerian representative, pointed out that in the past Palestine had been partitioned by a majority vote, in spite of the opposition of a considerable minority. The same was true of the United Nations decision to intervene in Korea, and of the 20 years in which the General Assembly had refused to recognize the Peking Government. Mr Rabah denied that South Africa had been expelled illegally from the United Nations. The decision not to allow it to take part in this year's General Assembly was completely legal. So was the decision to limit speeches in the debate, among them those by Israel. The fact that the assembly's majority was now made up largely of the less developed, less populated and less powerful countries should add to its moral authority. It was the minority, not the majority, which was unreasonable and irrational. Mr Scali's remarks on Friday had reflected the concern of many of the Western countries over decisions taken in this year's General Assembly, particularly over South Africa and Israel. Other countries, such as Britain, France and West Germany, made similar points, but with less force. The main complaint was that the developing countries were using their majority to force through decisions without consideration of the views of the minority. This left out of account the views of countries which had a certain influence in the areas considered, and weakened the authority of the United Nations, it was argued.

Wages up 30.9%

Canberra, Dec 11.—The average weekly wage in Australia rose by 30.9 per cent to \$499.43 (\$56.50 for males and by 44.3 per cent to \$437.27 (\$49.50) for women, in the 12 months to September 30.

Greece begins Nato withdrawal

From Our Correspondent Athens, Dec 11 Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, informed Parliament today that he had set in motion the technical procedures for Greece's military withdrawal from Nato, as well as for the revision of the status of American bases in Greece. "This does not mean that Greece proposes to break off political, cultural, or other relations with the West," he stated. The Prime Minister was outlining his Government's policy before the newly-elected Parliament. He described today's session as historic because it ratified, in a sense, the death of tyranny and the rebirth of a working democracy in Greece. Greece decided to withdraw from Nato's military arm last August because the alliance, as Mr Karamanlis put it today, "failed to avert and tolerate" the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. In practice, little has been done to implement the decision, and hardly any Greek military personnel serving in Nato headquarters, except in Izmir, have been withdrawn so far. But the Prime Minister revealed today that Greece had sent recently Notes to the parties concerned and was taking practical measures to implement the withdrawal. He also requested the revision of the agreements concerning American bases in Greece. Mr Karamanlis said his Government would table in Parliament next week the draft of a new constitution suitable for Greek conditions. It is understood that this will be a mixture of the Gaullist prototype for a republic with a presidential rule, counter-balanced by the substantial powers granted to the Government in order to ease its legislative work. "It will bolster the executive, without diminishing the Government's responsibility towards Parliament," Mr Karamanlis explained. It is now clear that when the charter is approved within three or four months, Mr Karamanlis will be elected by Parliament as the new President of the Republic. This has naturally increased the reluctance of Mr Panayotis Kanelopoulos, the respected former Prime Minister, to accept the office of interim President. Mr Karamanlis, outlining his government's foreign policy, said this was based on national independence, security and dignity. He had reassured the leaders of Cyprus that Greece would continue to give full support to the islanders to their plight. He had also pledged that his Government would not submit to false compromises in Cyprus nor agree to solutions that the nation considered unacceptable. There were serious problems with Turkey affecting vital Greek interests which the Government would not leave unprotected. Turkey's aggressiveness, he said, was ruining Greek-Turkish friendship. Greece prefers consultation to confrontation, but knows how to defend her national interest. The Greek Government always hopes Turkey will revise its provocative behaviour and cease being a threat to peace in this sensitive region of the world," he added. The Prime Minister saw Greece integrated in the European Community and playing a role in "Europe's unification efforts." However, in order to support an independent foreign policy, Greece needed a strong Army.

KRONENBERG & RAVAT INTERNATIONAL ASSESSORS 15 DEVONSHIRE ROW, LONDON EC2 TEL: (01) 247 1249 WE ARE REQUESTED BY DIRECT IMPORTERS/RE-EXPORTERS FROM P.L.A. BONDED WAREHOUSE LONDON, IRANIAN CARPET BROKERAGE LIMITED SPECIALIST EXPORTERS OF FINE INVESTMENT PIECES AND EXCEPTIONALLY FASHIONED ORIENTAL RUGS WHOSE TRADITIONAL LUXURY MARKETS SINCE 1948 HAVE BEEN IN PRESENT DAY ZAMBIA, MALAWI, UGANDA, KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA. NOW CLOSED OR HEAVILY RESTRICTED BY IMPORT CONTROLS. WE OFFER EXCEPTIONALY FIOR.

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HAIGLAND GATHERING Don't be vague. Come home to Haig. An advertisement for Haig whisky featuring a bottle and glasses of whisky, with the text "Don't be vague. Come home to Haig." and "هكزاد من الاصل" (Haigland Gathering).

PARLIAMENT December 11, 1974

Arrests not scaffold will reassure public

Mr WALDEN (Birmingham, Lab), opening a debate on capital punishment, moved: "That this House, while recognizing the public's fear of terrorism, should not be misled by the opinion of a minority of the public that the death penalty would increase the safety of public life."

He said he was one of those who believed in an early debate on this issue. He would speak clearly today and set at rest any confusion as to his intentions. He had to set against the outrage of the people the reason of the House. He had to set against the outrage of the people the reason of the House. He had to set against the outrage of the people the reason of the House.

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Mr Jenkins rules out any amnesty for cold-blooded bombers

MR ROY JENKINS, Home Secretary (Birmingham, Stretford, Lab), said in the House of Commons that he would not take any amnesty for cold-blooded bombers.

Having worried very much about his position, he would vote for the amendment (Lord Labour cheers.) MR JENKINS said he would not take any amnesty for cold-blooded bombers.

Summit outcome should make it easier for UK to remain in Community

MR GARRET FITZGERALD, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Dublin, Lab), said that the summit conference would make it easier for the UK to remain in the Community.

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To wish to kill but duty to protect people

S JILL KNIGHT (Birmingham, Edgmont, C), moved an amendment: "That this House should not be misled by the opinion of a minority of the public that the death penalty would increase the safety of public life."

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Desperate need for transplant kidneys

MR DALYELL (West Lothian, Lab), said that there was a desperate need for transplant kidneys. He said that there was a desperate need for transplant kidneys.

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Constraints on spending by British Rail

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Problems of a vote late in the night

MR DALYELL (West Lothian, Lab), said that there were problems of a vote late in the night. He said that there were problems of a vote late in the night.

Death penalty would demonstrate will to win

MR BATES (Bebington and Port, Lab), said that the death penalty would demonstrate the will to win. He said that the death penalty would demonstrate the will to win.

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Parliamentary Notices

House of Commons: Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Bates, Mr. Knight, Mr. Dalzell, Mr. Spriggs, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Craig, Mr. Hoyle, Mr. Banks, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Gifford, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Gifford, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Gifford, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Rawlinson.

Dr Kissinger best hope in Middle East

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BOOKS

The bedside Central Asia

To the Back of Beyond By Fitzroy Maclean (Cape, £4.50)

While my mind is not closed to the argument that lines of latitude do not properly run side ways, so to speak, instead of up and down as I think they should, I am irrevocably committed to the opinion that Outer and Inner Mongolia are the wrong way round. The latter prejudice, though, is more cultural than semantic. What is inner to me is Outer to the Chinese, and it is because I secretly think, in my heart of hearts, that the centre of the world is Oxford that I personally decline to recognize the credentials of the Ambassador from Ulan Bator. Sir Fitzroy Maclean, the author of this book, is more broad-minded. He may call Central Asia the back of beyond, but he takes it much as it comes, does not presume to criticize its geography, and is in good terms with most of its big-wigs, dead or alive.

after Sir Fitzroy's assurance that Central Asian women are no longer veiled. "The Engraver" of To The Back of Beyond is the "Very Old Man in a Turban" of Bokhara: 1974's "Samarkand: the rice-seller" is 1959's "Buying and Selling". Never mind, we all do it, and Sir Fitzroy is cheerfully disarming about his intentions—he is publishing his new book, he says, chiefly for his own "more or less innocent amusement". He calls it "an illustrated companion to Central Asia and Mongolia", but you would need a capacious bag or pocket to take it with you to Kazakhstan. It is really more in the nature of a rambling bed-side essay, part travel, part archaeological, mostly history. There is no denying that it lacks the flare of Sir Fitzroy's previous works, but that is perhaps because Central Asia itself has lost its macabre mystery. No Khan will now throw you into a well of vermin, if you go to Bokhara: the worst you will get is an ideological lecture from some bore of a commissar. It falls rather flat, for near the great adventurer bow much he paid for his taxi to Karakorum. But the history is fine. There, as always, Sir Fitzroy comes gloriously into his own. How he loves the thunder of the hoofs! He has told many of these stories before, but they

are well worth the repetition, and his cast of characters never flags, from Genghis Khan himself to that gloriously eccentric Yorkshire parson, Dr Joseph Wolff, or the unspeakably frightful Mad Baron, Major-General Baron Roman Fyodorovich von Ungern-Sternberg, who believed himself to be the God of War in person, and tried to create an independent Mongolia in the teeth of the Russian revolution. As to the contemporary denouement of it all, Sir Fitzroy is eminently fair about the Soviet hegemony in Central Asia, which he depicts as dull and immovable, but not unpopular. It is a book full of excesses, and since I began with a geographical sophistry, let me end with a topographical stunner. Of all the remarkable facts recorded in To The Back of Beyond, none startled me more than the facts about Lake Baikal, dispassionately recalled by Sir Fitzroy, as he flew over it to Mongolia. Lake Baikal is not only longer than England, it not only freezes every year on the same day, it not only supports 240 different kinds of shrimp ("many of them delicious"), observes Sir F. knowingly, but it also contains one fifth of all the fresh water in the entire world. How would never quibble with that.

Poetry

A Nip in the Air By John Betjeman (Murray, £1.50)

Collected Poems 1929-1974 By James Reeves (Heinemann, £4)

Two years ago, when the runners for the Laureate Stakes were called over, a well-known firm of bookmakers named Auden as odds-on favourite, with Betjeman at 5-1 against. In response to inquiries the same firm announced, however, that they wanted "nice friendly bets only"—something regretted by all who noticed that their know-

ledge of poetic form was so scratchy. Poets are born, not made, and if any horn poet was ever a born laureate that creature is John Betjeman, whose talent has always been for occasional verse. If any living poet could write a passable set of stanzas on HRH The Prince of Wales dropping in to tea at Balmoral by parachute then it would be Betjeman. The royal occasions commemorated in A Nip in the Air are less demanding. There is a "Ballad of the Investiture 1969" (You kneel a boy, you raise a man. And thus your lonelier life began); there are rhyming couplets about inland waterways (Heaven/Severn); declaimed in the presence of the Queen Mother when she reopened a lark of the Upper Avon; there is "14 November, 1973", which refers to Princess Anne as a white lily and instructs her to glow on the grounds that she is high in the poet's heart and other hearts. These efforts are disappointingly pallid beside the

unofficial Betjeman, best represented here by a satire on the mindless chat of executives (Essentially I integrate the current export drive/And basically I'm viable from ten o'clock till five); an angry poem about county types (God save me from the Parkers); a Browningsque exercise about a homosexual caught for procuring a minor; and a poem about Aldershot Crematorium. The oddest item is a letter addressed to one Mary Wilson: Dear Mary, New Year will be bliss To go with you by train to Diss... Can our Poet Laureate really be asking the wife of a former Minister to accompany him on a railway trip to Diss, Norfolk, for an unspecified purpose? Diss is the Latin for bell, of course, but that is no excuse. The poem fuses about whether the romantic pair should travel first class, for fear of reporters, or second, for socialistic reasons. It ends with a line to make the stuffed owl hoot: Dear Mary Wilson, this is Diss. It is all rather splendid and I await the denial from Downing Street. James Reeves never ran in the Laureate Stakes. He is true poet, and true poets tend not to run in anything, except the memory: Do you too wonder if the finest things A promising flower can do Is but to imitate with all its art All other flowers that flourish? You looking from your window See the spring Each year perform its leisurely Lounging act of memory? All nature gone into remembering. What am I to say of this? That it is "too reasonable and too truthful"—Yeats's dismissive comment on reading Reeves's first book, from which it comes? Yes, well, Yeats had a point. You can be bored by Reeves's neatness, by his need to make his verse formally watertight. But then there is another Reeves, a Reeves who writes untidy, inspired angry poems that seem to well up from quite a different source. I am thinking of such things as "Greenhallows", which as you read it becomes your own dream; and "The Little Brother"; and the four compelling lines which make up a strange poem, "Song": Suffer these hands, the heart's interpretation, Because I come to you as one who Not at the minute's nor the mind's dictation, Suffer these hands, the heart's interpretation.

Anita Leslie's beautiful & acclaimed biography JENNIE The Life of Lady Randolph Churchill is now available in large format Arrow paperback at £1.95

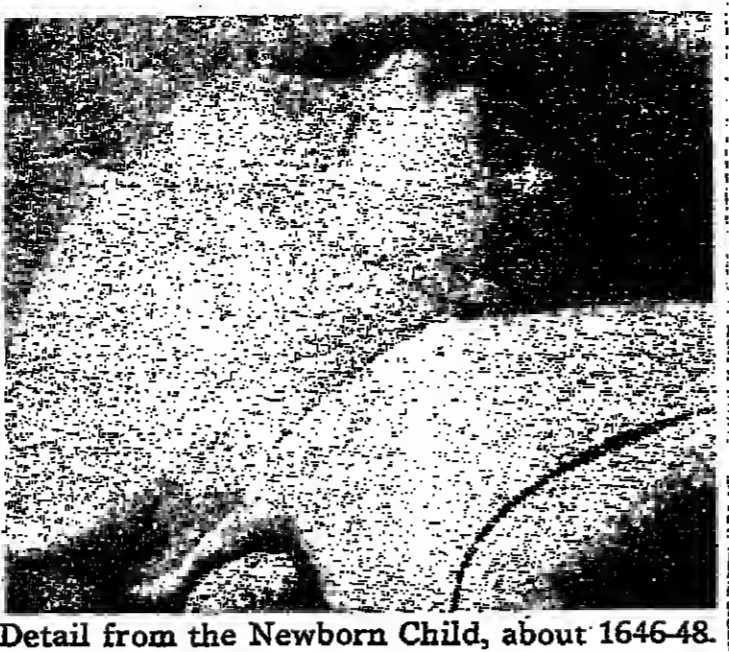
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Detail from the Newborn Child, about 1646-48.

Unearthly, distinctive and sublime

Georges de la Tour By Benedict Nicolson and Christopher Wright (Phaidon, £20)

We know very little about the career and character of the French painter Georges de La Tour (1630-1652) and what little we do know—he seems to have been rather boorish—takes us further from, rather than nearer to, an accounting for his art, which is unearthly, distinctive and sublime. That La Tour existed at all is only evident from the bare thread of documentation remaining: the legal formalities of a man's existence in provincial Lorraine, but nobody looked at these records until the second half of the nineteenth century. After his death, his paintings vanished into convents, monasteries and private collections all over France, and took with them much of his own identity. In the present century, 60 years of French, German and English scholarship, recovering more and more "lost" works to reconstruct a plausible oeuvre, culminated in the sensational exhibition at the Orangerie in the Paris two years ago. No one who saw that highly concentrated show—the organizers passed only 30 paintings as unquestionably the work of La Tour—will ever forget it. It was a model presentation. Jacques Thuillier and Pierre Rosenberg's catalogue was a book in itself, a meticulous report of the progress of detection to date. What Benedict Nicolson and Christopher Wright, themselves on the Orangerie committee, have now produced is the first full-scale account of La Tour's work in English, together with a catalogue raisonné of the paintings. The catalogue is written by Mr Wright, the four narrative chapters, proposing a chronology by Mr Nicolson, who is both scrupulous and playful, dealing gently with established wrongful attributions across the world from the Ashmolean Museum to the National Gallery of Canada. He passes rather more than 50 paintings as probably genuine autograph works, but reluctantly throws out at least one much admired at the Orangerie, the Berlin "St. Sebastian". Mr Wright is crisp and not of course, to read straight through (as I read him), but Georges de La Tour is a book in which anyone would take a deep and increasing pleasure. The colour plates are outstandingly beautiful. La Tour's faces are unforgettable—particularly in the warmly coloured scenes of youthful nudes, deceived which Mr Nicolson places early in his career—but many of them derive their character less from

'A very nice life'

Diane A Victorian By Macdonald Hastings (Michael Joseph, £5.50)

Mrs Caroline Creyke (otherwise Diane, Ina or Sledge) was a remarkable woman. Though she grew up during a period when a woman's place was in the home (which meant, for her class, the saloon, the drawing-room, at a pinch the bedroom, and certainly not the kitchen), she had little time for domestic pursuits. Her father encouraged her, when she was seven or so (in the 1850s) to follow the gossamer over the Scottish moors in thick drizzle without waterproofs; and later, she shot over those same moors herself with a rifle she called "Little Death". She also fished (when she was 12, she landed a 14lb salmon, and later landed two 28lb fish within an hour), became a bicyclist and a skater, and made an ascent in one of Mr Percival Spenser's balloons. Flouting convention she entertained actors and artists in her Mayfair home—Forbes Robertson, Patti, Mrs Patrick Campbell and Sarah Bernhardt (the latter, according to Lady Frederick Cavendish, "a woman of notorious character" whose invitation "even to luncheon and dinner" was a scandal). Macdonald Hastings was given a book, Sporting Sketches, which Mrs Creyke published pseudonymously in 1890; fascinated, he discovered her identity, and has traced not only the story of her life, but her other literary efforts—including the fascinating Pleasures of a Chaperon, which came out in The World between 1891 and 1901, and from which he quotes generously. Though these essays show her, often, as

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Pulpits for two

Under Bow Bells Edited by Joseph McCulloch (Sheilodon Press, £3.50)

St Mary le Bow is blessed with one Rector and two pulpits. For the past decade, each Tuesday afternoon, the Rector and the second pulpit has been offered to some person of note who engages the Rector (Joseph McCulloch) in lively dialogue for the edification of city folk who, come Sunday, will be in the pub, on the links or under the car. There have been some 400 such encounters and they mark McCulloch's deep concern that the church be seen in real dialogue with the world: serious discourse but packaged in the chat, interview, and cross-talk which the media have made desirable. Under Bow Bells contains the edited transcripts of dialogues with 20 people, all of them household names, most of them communicators themselves, and each introduced by a short, bright, gossipy sketch which nicely catches the contestant off-stage: Levin, Whitehead, Muggenidge, et al. Transcripts of talks are frequently boring, but these have been judiciously edited and there is just the right balance of seriousness and quip and quote to give the reader the taste of the original encounter. All are interesting, some are illuminating, several are deeply moving. By and large, the transcripts reflect on the moral dimensions of a particular experience are more gripping than the general utterances of professional truth-tellers: Diana Rigg, for instance, having played in Acland and Heoise affirming sexual intercourse "after the first, second or third encounter" as an obstacle to a deeper relationship rather than the crown of a relationship already matured. This clearly had the Rector on the base line and was indeed heady stuff compared with the more abstract lucubrations of the Wykeham Professor of Logic in the University of Oxford. All these disputants were fairly safe: humane, liberated, leftist. (Even Levin seems to have made his bed with Teilhard de Chardin!) But dons, actors, journalists, even politicians, do not adequately represent dialogue with the world: what about some of the powerful City moguls themselves, the bankers, the financiers, the merchants—or the less wild men of the very left? Finally, a salute to McCulloch's urbane, wry, and apparently easy manner which masks great skill and much homework. To be sure his style is odd here and there (thus indicates, it does not dichotomise; anolastic is not a communicator's word) but the urgent purpose of the man is clear, and his Introduction plots rather sadly his years of trying in the wilderness for radical reform in the Church. It must be painful for him to see the oil spalks succeeding where he and others have failed. Even Joe McCulloch does not want Pharoah to have the last laugh!

Fiction

Falling Bodies By Sue Kaufman (Hamish Hamilton, £2.95)

Meritocrats By Stuart Evans (Hutchinson, £2.95)

They are all jolly good at quoting and Spinoza's dictum that universal human desires can be reduced to riches, fame and lust breaks out all over. Since most of them are supremely observant and thoughtful, a great deal of what happens in the place between their eyes and cerebellums, with subversive action below the belt; it ends in disarray, with moving optimism. I am astonished that this is Stuart Evans's first novel. It is witty, resourceful and brilliant, and told as a many-voiced story; in this case, the chapters are presented alternately under each of the names of the five main characters, so there are almost as many versions and interpretations as there are participants and onlookers. The point of it is that there is room for all.

Man of contradictions

Personal Record 1920-1972 By Gerald Brenan (Cope, £5)

lements as these, but Mr Brenan simply makes the statements, and leaves his reader to sort them out. All this said, there still remains much to go down on the credit side. Mr Brenan is honest and candid. Forster gives him a copy of A Passage to India. Does he like it? No. "I have not seen him since." Then he goes on to admit he was wrong. The book now seems to me a masterly production, conveying all the ambiguities which lie in the Indian mind and their clash with English moral positivism as well as one's own uncertain and enigmatic views about the Universe. He is also shrewd. He puts his finger unerringly on the central weakness of Bloomism. "Scepticism was a moral duty. They thus found themselves out of touch with large areas of the world they lived in and with most of the past." Mr Brenan has of course lived much of his long life in Spain, and the best part of his own writing has concerned himself with the Spanish people, their politics and their literature. It is perhaps therefore not surprising that the Spanish sections of his present book are by far the best. Once he has the Andalusian sun beating down on him Brenan the writer man comes to life and grows in stature. He has in particular two long chapters, "The Approach of the Civil War" and "The Civil War at Málaga": these are admirable, vivid and objective. To my mind this was a purely Spanish affair, to be seen in terms of peninsula rather than European history, but intensified and distorted by the assistance of two great power dynamos. This is absolutely right—and needs saying now just as urgently as it needed saying 35 years ago. David Williams

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THE ARTS



From scaremonger to Scaramanga

Next Friday Christopher Lee makes his first appearance in a James Bond film when The Man with the Golden Gun opens at the Odeon, Leicester Square. He is Scaramanga, the owner of that golden gun, and Lee plays the role lightly, urbane, with a smile on the killer's face, which might surprise those who followed him over the years scowling among the coffins. He claims that he has not seen the finished version of the picture yet, but lets slip that he is reasonably satisfied with the performance. He has every reason to be: he and the camera crew carry off the major honours of the movie. ... Mr Lee delivers very nicely, but admits that the idea of turning Scaramanga into an almost schoolboy villain came from the director, Guy Hamilton. ... 'When I first read the script I visualized Scaramanga as a straight-down-the-middle heavy. The villains are always the centre of curiosity in Ian's books: Bond doesn't change but I must agree that Scaramanga is one of his most impressive murderers. Ian was already ill when he wrote Golden Gun and I think he knew that the wells of his imagination were beginning to run a bit dry. ... So Guy and I, after a lot of talk, decided that Scaramanga a little like Bond himself, a counter-Bond if you like,

instead of the murderous, unappealing thing of the novel. He's the fastest gun in the East. When we were out filming in Thailand down on the Andaman Sea Guy kept on saying to Roger Moore and myself, 'Enjoy it, enjoy it! Lightly! Lightly!' And enjoy it we did. With the exception of Billy Wilder, who is unquestionably the greatest director I've ever worked with, no one has given me more help than Guy, although this is the first picture I've made with him. ... Scaramanga represents a deliberate effort on Christopher Lee's part to move away from the gothic films he is normally associated with, as indeed was Rochester in The Three Musketeers, another of 1974's more entertaining movies. He has played Dracula seven times in 15 years and was slightly cross when the other day another newspaper doubled those seven Draculas to 14. ... 'Yes, of course I have been typecast in the film industry, but it was a way to achieve international recognition. Those Draculas and other fiends have spread over a large number of different countries; it is fatal for an actor to be known only at home. I've moved about a bit playing in German films, doing The Hand of Orlac in French and in English, making a movie for Jerome Savary's Grand Magic Circus with Michelle Presle, Michel Simon and Delphine Seyrig. ... 'During the past two years I've been trying to prove that I am not an actor to be confined to a certain type of film. Every actor must be versatile; the problem comes in finding ways of proving that versatility. One of my great regrets is that I never became an opera singer — my great-grandfather ran the first Australian opera company, the name idea is two best-known plays. The Love of Four Colonels and Romanoff and Juliet, Ustinov attempted political plays, but not very seriously. ... Who's Who in Hell is again an attempt at a political play; but once again my very serious Ustinov obviously wants to write a political satire, but he never really wants to take sides. In so many of his plays he takes up the odd position of political satirist who has no very firm political beliefs. He substitutes for anger a wry irony, and it just does not work. ... This new play is all the time trying to say something not just amusing but important, and all

Poor philosophy from Peter Ustinov

Who's Who in Hell Lunt-Fontanne, New York

Clive Barnes The time it is being reduced to a least of intellectual triviality. Ustinov clearly believes that everyone is right, and that you must not offend anyone, especially a theatregoer. It is poor philosophy. ... The major influence of Ustinov is very clear. He is trying to offer us a Bernard Shaw for our time — with setting in one another's way. His new play Who's Who in Hell, at the Lunt-Fontanne theatre, has a certain style to it, but the style is virtually all we could have done with less art and more matter. ... The play is characteristically brilliant. Ustinov has never been short of dramatic possibilities. Here he sets his scene in a waiting room for hell — shades of Sartre's Huis Clos — in a well-appointed room — undoubtedly a well-appointed, indeed Douglas W. Schmidt's smoothly opulent design is perhaps the rarest joy of the play. ... These people are the new inmates of an American President (who seems just a little like Richard M. Nixon), a Russian leader (who, yes, seems just a little like Nikita Khrushchev) and a young American assessor. The young American, a clean-cut kid with a naughty grin, killed them both, before secret service bullets moved him to the ground. It all happened in the name of a lovely girl, a lovely girl named Beverly. ... Ustinov has always been an extraordinarily easy and deft writer. His very first play, produced nearly 30 years ago, The House of Ravenna, revealed, as I recall, a certain theatrical sweetness. It was a milk-and-water study of Russian in London, and it had a fleeting honesty that still remains in the memory. ... Ustinov is beautiful as the assessor, Russian. He is such a lovely fellow, certainly, but his exaggerations have a special confidence to them. George S. Irving was admirably scared over heroic as the American President. To an extent he was repeating a role he played in the play An Evening with Richard Nixon but this was clearly what was being asked of him: Bear Bridges as the disident killer had less conviction, he seemed oddly detached from the play, which proved just as well for him. ... When you come down to it, Ustinov is making dangerously feeble jokes about dangerously serious subjects. — New York Times News Service.

LSO/Pritchard/Price

Albert Hall Alan Blyth

Once again a programme that would have played to a sold-out Albert Hall in the Prom season produced a sea of empty places as a winter concert. Those that came on Tuesday were rewarded, and surely warned, by Margaret Price's singing of Mozart and Rossini. As a Mozart interpreter, her name is already made here and abroad. Her Rossini, until this occasion, was an unknown quantity. She chose Semiramide's 'Bel raggio', always an unerring test of coloratura ability. For an acknowledged Constanze, its runs and turns present few problems, but it is not often that she hears Rossini sung with such opulent tone allied to such faultless technical control. Some great moments of the past came to mind. It is hardly worth quoting them when such an obviously individual singer as Miss Price can stand on her own reputation. ... If and when she sings the role on the stage (a sensible opera house would mount the work specially for her), she will allow herself a little more license in the matter of rubato and playfulness, particularly in those things before they have exciting he now needs very firm guidance if he is to advance towards musical maturity. ... Hiroko Mariko is another pianist who deals in force rather than subtlety, and in Schumann's Fantasy her tone coarsened unpleasantly at climactic points. More generally her musical response proved intermittent, with choppy phrasing and a disident attitude to many of Schumann's more ardently poetic pages. Miss Mariko was much more at home in Frank Martin's Five Preludes, relishing their bitter if impersonal poetry and the many opportunities provided for pianistic display. She also accompanied Nigel Travers (who) with a good deal of confidence, offsetting his often inhibited response to O.P.E. Bach's Sonata in E minor. Both players delighted in Gabriel Grieg's Sarabande and Allegro, a familiar form of French conception full of charming if over-extended ideas, but Mr Travers was at his very best in Berio's Sequenza Settima, setting the oboe's fantastic traceries against the rapid continuity of held pitch with far more assurance than he showed elsewhere. ... Bryce Morrison

London debuts

Francis Remeau is a wild and musically often wildly young pianist, and although it was sometimes difficult to resist his flair and enthusiasm, and an obvious desire to take the Wigmore Hall by storm, his excess often blighted rather than coaxed our acceptance. He tended to inflate the music far beyond its natural but still vital perspective with Lisztian melodic phrasing and a disident attitude by no means reserved for Liszt. Thus Mozart's A minor Rondo (a daring opening choice) was so self-consciously expressive and *molto rubato* that all sense of tempo relationship virtually collapsed, and both here and in Beethoven's sonata Op 2 No 3 he forced the music's drama to the point of parody. He was more sensitive as well as disciplined in Brahms's Op 119 pieces though, again in the C major Toccata he was heavily brilliant and quite without the composer's prescribed *giocoso*. The Bartok sonata responded better to his bold frontal assault despite much rhythmic distraction, but in Verdi's *Polka* and Liszt's B minor grandeur and nobility was again sacrificed on the altar of garish sensationalism. Mr Remeau protests too much, is too anxious to move back and forth, and although his temperament is colourful and

Hinge and Bracket

at this year's Edinburgh Festival and next at the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs where it was reviewed on this page by John Higgins, transferred on Tuesday to the May Fair Theatre. ... Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from poster, they later editions.

After the Fall BBC 2

Leonard Buckley

Well, you could have fooled me. In spite of all the disavowals it was impossible to believe that this play on Tuesday did not concern the ill-starred marriage of Marilyn Monroe with Arthur Miller, who wrote it. Yet for all the attention given to that beforehand, the matter scarcely arose. For the play dealt so graphically and so unerringly with the underside of human relationships that debate about its origins in particular people seemed academic and even superfluous. ... If you wanted a theme for this long and complex drama you could say that it was one man's search for self-respect. Quentin, an American lawyer, is appalled at the concentration camps in Europe but is caught up in the witch hunt at home, for he and his friends go back to the days when they were young and Red,

John Ryder Bodleian Library

Brian Alderson

There is a school of thought which will have no truck with book designers. They are seen as expensive brokers who work the down-to-earth publisher and his, usually, even more down-to-earth printer, or they are mocked as advertisers *manqués*. However, a new exhibition at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, puts the case for the book designer in a decisive way. It is a display of the books and working papers of John Ryder, the designer and art director at the Bodley Head, and it celebrates the donation of his personal archive to the library. ... even the innovations to parries which are part of the routine job-work of any lively publishing house. But what is outstanding about John Ryder's work in this field is the care and affection that have gone into even the least significant items (a cheap book-style hand-out for the Frankfurt Book Fair, a variety of review slips), and the contribution which each of these makes to an absolutely coherent body of work. ... From the earliest examples in the exhibition — typescripts which John Ryder himself prepared as a boy — right through to the plain but distinctive house-style which he established for The Bodley Head, there is an attention in his work of the classic principles of typography. The exhibition emphasizes how far, in fact, he has rooted in the older skills of letter-cutting and hand-writing. There are examples of his brave attempts to revive appreciation for the writing-masters of the sixteenth century; while the

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Photograph by Fay Godwin extensive evidence of his collaboration with the letterer Michael Harvey shows how applied principles can be applied with a very modern zest. ... As one progresses round the cases — admiring alike the force of John Ryder's own example (his miniature press and his beautiful little column *Printing for Pleasure* were an inspiration to a whole generation of private printers) and his championing of the majestic work of Giovanni Mardersteig's Officina Bodoni at Verona — one is more and more struck by the strange paradox that lies at the heart of all real 'book designing'. For after the intense labour — the choice and the physical elements that go to make a book — the designer disappears. If his job has been done to perfection (and few have achieved perfection more frequently than John Ryder), then the reader's sense of impediments between himself and the writer will have been reduced to a minimum.

John Ryder Bodleian Library

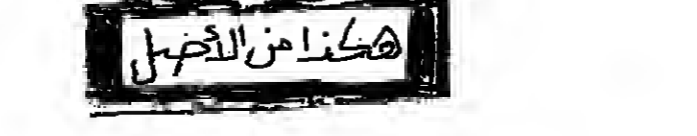
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SPORT

Cricket



Jeff Thomson, the Australian fast bowler, does press-ups to strengthen his already powerful arms and shoulders for another onslaught on England's batsmen.

Good start essential in Test if England to save the Ashes

From John Woodcock: Cricket Correspondent: Perth, Dec 11. With the arrival of the Australian players from the eastern states, the countdown has begun for Thomson's second blast-off. That, at any rate, is what the second Test match between England and Australia, which starts here on Friday, is being seen as. It is not surprising that we are grateful for Cowdrey, whether or not he makes runs. Cowdrey's presence is reassuring. You could say, I suppose, that nothing more was ever asked of a cricketer than to be asked to play in 1974. Until he went to the nets yesterday morning he had not had a bat in his hand for three months. He wishes he could have had another fortnight, or at the very least another week, to get the feel of things again, but even at such short notice it is not beyond him to bowl to his own advantage. England will be picking their side until late on Friday morning. Not until then will they know who can stand up to a bat, or run up and bowl a ball. Today, at Geraldton, before the attack had to be taken to hospital with a high temperature, he would almost certainly have played in the Test match had he been fit but he is unlikely to do so now. Fletcher has had a net without any bowlers, and Lever, needing support for an injured back, and Hendrick with a virus on him, with Snow due at any moment to comment on the tour, what an irony!

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MCC only draw—with Australian to help out

Geraldton, Western Australia. The MCC cricketers drafted an Australian bowler into their team but still only managed a draw in their one-day match against a West Australian Country XI here today. The bowler was a West Australian Colts player, Peter Brosson, who came into the side at the last minute when Hendrick was taken to hospital after the team arrived here. After an hour-long fight from Hendrick went down with a throat infection and spent the day in hospital undergoing tests. The bowler was declared as fit for the second Test match on Friday. Brosson, who was 12th man to the last MCC side to play Western Australia, took one wicket in the match, which was bowled. The match ended with Western Australia Country on 153 for nine.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Lists MCC and West Australian Country XI players and their runs.

Masood for Northumberland

Asif Masood, the Pakistan Test fast bowler, will play in minor league cricket for Northumberland next season. Masood, who is currently in Lahore, has accepted terms to be professional for Northumberland next season. The former Yorkshire player John Woodford and Peter Kippax have agreed to turn out for Northumberland on a match basis next season. The 1975 Haig national village cricket championship has attracted an entry of 816 clubs, the largest in the 1972 and 1973 seasons. They include the 1974 winners, Romarsund Welfare, from Northumberland, Troon (Cornwall), winners in 1972 and 1973, and Collingham (Nottingham), twice semifinalists and runners-up this year.

Gillette Cup to continue

The Gillette knockout competition will continue for at least the next three years. After lengthy negotiations, the Gillette Cricket Board announced last night that terms had been agreed with the Gillette company for the event to be run in the 1975, 1976 and 1977 seasons.

Northern challengers supported in sponsored events at Ascot

By Jim Snow: Not surprisingly, the two northern challengers for Ascot's two big sponsored races on Saturday, Tartan Ace from Arthur Stephenson's stable and Canadian from Gordon Richards' have lately come in for strong support for the SGB Handicap Steeplechase and the SGB Handicap Hurdle. The form of Tartan Ace, this season and the one before, has been excellent. In Ireland in 1973 he won the Irish Dillinger Grand National at Fairyhouse and five other races, and after he had come over to join Arthur Stephenson's Durham stable he won three other races. He is now being trained by the most important of these was the 55,000 Whitbread Northern Gold Trophy at Epsom Park. Tartan Ace is only seven years of age, but he has gone on the right way. He showed three weeks ago in the Sundew Steeplechase at Haydock Park. There he met Pandit at level weights of 11 st 12 lb over three miles, and put up a fine performance to be beaten only two and a half lengths by Fred Winner champion, Red Rum was 12 lengths behind. If this form is accepted at face value, Tartan Ace is some two or

three pounds only behind Pandit. In consequence Pandit would be handicapped at 11 st 3 lb in Ascot's big race on Saturday. From this mark bookmakers could be forgiven for shutting up shop until the next event. But there is always a danger in relying on the form of a condition race, such as the Sundew Steeplechase, when it comes to assessing the prospects of a placed horse in so competitive a handicap as the SGB Handicap Hurdle. The form of Canadian, this season and the one before, has been excellent. In Ireland in 1973 he won the Irish Dillinger Grand National at Fairyhouse and five other races, and after he had come over to join Arthur Stephenson's Durham stable he won three other races. He is now being trained by the most important of these was the 55,000 Whitbread Northern Gold Trophy at Epsom Park. Canadian is only seven years of age, but he has gone on the right way. He showed three weeks ago in the Sundew Steeplechase at Haydock Park. There he met Pandit at level weights of 11 st 12 lb over three miles, and put up a fine performance to be beaten only two and a half lengths by Fred Winner champion, Red Rum was 12 lengths behind. If this form is accepted at face value, Canadian is some two or

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When it is cheaper to call off meeting

Kelso was the only race in Britain yesterday, yet £800,000 was the meet the course £1,000. Despite roundly buzzards, the Ki was frost and snow free, as well as ahead on good ground blue skies and sunshine. The management of the track urgently want an answer to the question: "How is it for us to keep racing a like this, and how many? Would have broken even had we been forced to abandon it." The Levy Board deal allows £850 for courses in winter on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and £1,500 on Friday. With an inflationary racecourse costs and an average of £500, £850 would be a double for the Worcestershire stable in the December Handicap Steeplechase. Charley Arlie was no match for Train de Paix at Wolverhampton, but he was a double for the Worcestershire stable in the December Handicap Steeplechase. Charley Arlie was no match for Train de Paix at Wolverhampton, but he was a double for the Worcestershire stable in the December Handicap Steeplechase. Charley Arlie was no match for Train de Paix at Wolverhampton, but he was a double for the Worcestershire stable in the December Handicap Steeplechase.

Uttoxeter programme

Table listing racing programs for Uttoxeter, including 12.45 Countryman's Steeplechase, 1.15 Youngsters Hurdle, and 1.45 December Steeplechase.

2.15 COUNTRYMAN'S STEEPLECHASE

Table listing racing programs for 2.15 Countryman's Steeplechase, including 2.45 Kingstone Steeplechase and 3.15 Cudley Hurdle.

Uttoxeter selections

Table providing selections for various races at Uttoxeter, such as 1.45 Near and Far, 2.15 Charley Arlie, and 2.45 Tudor Able.

Kelso results

Table showing results for Kelso races, including 12.15 Earlston Hurdle and 1.15 Youngsters Hurdle.

Boxing

Needham fought so bravely, and yet unavailingly, as he did last year in another 15 rounds championship fight. The now retired champion, Claretta, never stopped coming forward though I thought he finished a little further behind on points than the official margin of eight rounds to Needham. Five to Maguire and two even. After all the cheering was over I recalled that so often before the bantamweight division has produced outstanding contests. The two Glynn-Kafferty matches and the two Borge bouts between Rudkin and McGowan stirred the blood in me. Nottingham's latest epic, it is surely true that London promoters did more to encourage the "little men" of boxing and forgot about wearisome, heavyweight titans and blunder affairs.

Needham needs a long rest before his next bout

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India capture quick wicket after their batting fails

New Delhi, Dec 11.—West Indies dismissed India for 220 on the opening day of the second Test match here today and then lost one quick wicket for only four runs by the close of play when the Indian batting on a comfortable pitch at the Ferozshah Kotla ground was undistinguished. Parthasarathy Sharma, playing his first Test,

made top score of 54, and Naik, the opening batsman, was next best with 48. Derek Murray, deputizing for the regular opening batsman, Frederick, who was ill, played a rash and unnecessary shot when West Indies went in for 10 minutes' batting and registered his third consecutive Test knock. India did

well enough up to luncheon, when they were 104 for three. From then until tea they struggled to 165 for five and the innings folded up a further 70 minutes after the interval for the edition of 55 runs. Viswanath and Patel, who have disappointed so often, did so again. Viswanath scratched around for two hours and a half for 32 and Patel, whose Test place must now be very much in danger, made only 11. West Indies won the first Test of the five-match series by 267 runs.

Advertisement for PPA Dividends and Littlewoods Pools. Includes text: 'CERTIFIED PPA DIVIDENDS', 'TWO TOP DIVIDEND WINNERS SHARE £201,468', and 'LITTLEWOODS POOLS, LIVERPOOL £905,752'.

Easy for Griffith

Emile Griffith, five times holder of the world welterweight and middleweight boxing crowns, won an easy 10-round decision over Canadian Donato Paduano at the Forum here last night. In spite of his 37 years, the halving champion was remarkably fast and thrilled the crowd of 8,000 with his powerful punching. — Agence France Presse.

Fulford again

For the fifth successive year the Benson and Hedges golf tournament will be played at Fulford Park, on August 12-16. Prize money will again be £25,000, with £4,000 to the winner.

Show jumping

PAHS: International tournament, 1. (Prizes: clear, £100; 2nd, £50; 3rd, £25; 4th, £10; 5th, £5; 6th, £2.50; 7th, £1.25; 8th, £0.625; 9th, £0.3125; 10th, £0.15625.)

Motos racing

Economy drive to end horse power struggle

Motor racing's rule-making body, the Commission Sportive Internationale, is considering a proposal that the fuel-carrying capacity of Formula One cars be progressively reduced over the next five years. The suggestion, which comes from the Formula One Association, representing most of the works teams in the European time-limited fuel load, currently fixed at 55 gallons, be reduced by 10 per cent each year, but that the current race distance of 200 miles should be retained. If adopted, it is in the current campaign for fuel conservation the proposal has obvious attractions—this could completely revolutionize racing engine development, transforming it from a horse power to an economy battle. Already there is widespread support for the proposal in Britain. Ford's motor sports director, Stuart Turner, in describing the scheme as a logical step in the search for greater efficiency and economy. "We are constantly trying to get the peak performance out of engines and maximum use of materials in the safest way, and such a rule must mean greater efficiency and economy. The scheme would also shelve what looked to be an imminent and costly horse power race between Ford and Ferrari. While the V8 Ford engine, manufactured by Cosworth Engineering, has powered the world champions' car for the seventh year in succession, there is no doubt that in 1974 the 12-cylinder Ferrari has been the more powerful Formula One engine. Cosworth are confident that they could match the Italian engine's horse-power figures (believed to be close to 500 bhp) but at a cost which is of the order of the British-based teams could afford.

Tennis

Newcombe beats Borg in rain affected match

Melbourne, Dec 11.—John Newcombe, Australia's best young tennis player, beat the young Swedish star, Bjorn Borg, in the only completed match on a rain-hit second day of the Masters Tennis Tournament here today. Newcombe, surprisingly beaten by Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, on the opening day, clinched victory over Borg with two double-breaks to win a service-dominated match. When rain finally stopped play for the day, the Rumanian, the Nastase, Masters champion for the past three years, was leading Manuel Orantes of Spain, in the second match by 6-4, 3-1. Because of rain interruptions, the Newcombe-Borg match took four and a half hours to complete. I have had a small chance, but he said it would be very difficult. "If I had won a set from Newcombe, I would have had a better chance." Newcombe, who lost the Mexican Raul Ramirez on the first day, quickly found himself trailing Orantes today. From two games down, however, the Rumanian took four straight games and, apart from a scare when he double faulted an set point, carried on to win the set comfortably. He gained an early break in the second set before rain put an end to play for the day. Officials of the eight-man tournament, which will be completed by matches would go on as scheduled, with Vilas playing Borg and Newcombe meeting Parun in the "blue group," and Nastase playing the Argentine. Orantes and Orantes against Ramirez in the "white" group. Newcombe's match against Orantes was the only one to be played when the other matches postponed from today—Vilas v Parun, and Ramirez v Sokolov—would also be played.—Buzzer.

Metreveli surprised by American

Perth, Dec 11.—The No. 1 Alex Metreveli, of the United States, struggled to a three over Mike Machette, of the West Australian open championship here today. Machette won the first set 6-5 but he fell below the three in the second set, 6-4, 6-2. In the third round women's singles Evonne Cawley beat American Sal. 6-5, 6-0 but her fellow New York, Dec 11.—Janet Morris, the Wimbledon champion, was not in the annual rankings in the United States Lawn Association yesterday. She topped the top rankings in 1971 and 1972 shared first place with I. In last year's first round, she was defeated by the American, M. Gorman. R. Stanik, A. T. Gorman, R. Stanik, S. Solomon, C. Pasarell, B. Borovick, R. Oster.

The oil around us

a Special Report

Ministers and companies all set for tough bargaining

By Roger Viovoys
Special Correspondent

Last month Sir Eric the chairman of the Petroleum, led a team of officials to Lancaster House at three representatives of the Government—Mr Lever, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Dell, Paymaster General, and Lord Balogh, Minister of State at the Department of Energy. The meeting marked the start of a series of long and tough discussions over the state participation in North Sea oilfields found in the North Sea.

Mr Dell, Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, told a conference on the North Sea and Celtic Seas. "The exploitation of our oil wealth needs the sustained efforts and resources of both our nation and the oil companies. Both can share the oil; both can share the profits."

It is not just the Americans who are unhappy about the participation and the tax proposals. European and British companies feel that the Government's and the nation's interest can best be served by devising a fair taxation rate that can make the most of revenues from North Sea oil and keep exploration and the exploitation of new finds at a high level.

Whitehall already has powers to control the rate of extraction from the North Sea and to impose restrictions on exports to the companies claim. In this situation the Government has all the powers it needs to guide the direction of North Sea oil exploitation and will gain 51 per cent of participation, other than expenses it cannot afford.

No one expects the discussions to be easy. Mr Varley has said on a number of occasions that he wants parity in participation to be freely negotiated, but the companies feel they are being coerced with the unspoken threat of victimization in a new round of licensing and in other directions.

Mr Lever may well find the stiffest opposition comes from BP, to which the Government has a 48 per cent stake. The company is not receiving preferential treatment and the Government has made it plain that it requires 51 per cent of the BP finds in the same way as any other company.

It would be possible for the Government to abandon its policy of allowing BP to act as a commercial company without state interference. But it is anxious to demonstrate to the Americans in particular that its North Sea proposals apply equally to all companies whether British or foreign. Fears of retaliation against growing British oil interests in the United States are behind the Government's drive to treat all North Sea participants fairly.

Just two organizations are excluded from this equal treatment policy. The National Coal Board has been told that its North Sea interests will be transferred to the British National Oil Corporation and that it will receive compensation for its loss. British Gas will be allowed to continue its operations without surrendering any part of its holdings to the BNOC, but its partners in various discoveries are still uncertain whether the British Gas shareholding will count towards the state 51 per cent participation or if they will still be required to negotiate a majority state holding in their shares.

Investigations into North Sea policy

The presence of Mr Dell negotiating committees does not mean that the Government has decided to end the negotiation of participation with the oil companies. Discussions on its tax proposals for taxing revenue from North Sea oil production, Mr Dell, while playing a leadership role in the publication of the Public Accounts Commission investigation into the Sea policy which has exposed serious defects and the possibility of a new system being used to tax the revenue from the North Sea.

Meeting between the Government and the oil companies was short and only agreeable in the 4 hours Mr Lever and colleagues met senior officials from Shell and two separate meetings were scheduled for continued with the three largest most successful finders in the North Sea has been announced, although there are expected to be a number of much longer more detailed meetings over Christmas. Mr Dell will keep Mr Lever over the next few weeks since he is also committed to a round of opening discussions with the companies involved in other North Sea fields.

12 fields appear on the Government list for state participation—Forties, Auk, Dunlin, Moutrose, Ninian, Heather, Piper, Thistle and one.

The first meetings between the Government and BP, Shell and others have produced one unexpected feature. Shell and partners in four of the most successful oilfield discoveries expected to negotiate a joint entity but in individual inter-relationships with Mr Lever. So far there has been no indication that future talks will be on a joint basis.

However, some of the findings that have found a large number of fields and negotiations have become extremely heated and unwieldy if the same policy is pursued. The atmosphere for the negotiations has improved. Both sides took up extreme positions during the preparation for the election. The companies are now making a discreet silence over their intentions over participation while the Government has gone out of its way to reassure the oil industry that it does not intend to frighten them away from the North Sea by making exploration and production unattractive.

announcing a programme that gives the Government powers to control the rate of output from the North Sea. Mr Varley last week that there will be no control over

the development of finds made up to the end of next year. He also said there would be no controls over production before 1982, and if these were eventually necessary, companies could expect ample notice.

Yesterday, speaking in London, Mr John Smith, Under Secretary at the Department of Energy, told a conference on the North Sea and Celtic Seas. "The exploitation of our oil wealth needs the sustained efforts and resources of both our nation and the oil companies. Both can share the oil; both can share the profits."

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The rising costs of recovery

Negotiations must also be made more complex by the continuing rising cost of getting oil ashore from the North Sea reservoirs. A large oilfield could cost more than £1,000m to develop and it seems unlikely that even the biggest oil companies can handle two or possibly three fields at these costs.

Although oilmen would regard it as treason to admit the fact, some companies could be seriously embarrassed if the exploration efforts were too successful. If oil discoveries were to outstrip the capacity of a company to develop them, state participation might be welcome.

The other factor that could persuade some companies that a government stake in the North Sea oil business would be beneficial is the price of oil. It is estimated that the production cost of a barrel of oil from the North Sea will be between \$4 and \$5, still leaving a handsome margin between the cost, including transport, of a barrel of imported oil at \$12-\$14.

If ever the North Sea, and particularly the smaller fields, became an uneconomic proposition, state participation would be essential to ensure their continued operation since they would still be an important source of saving on foreign exchange.

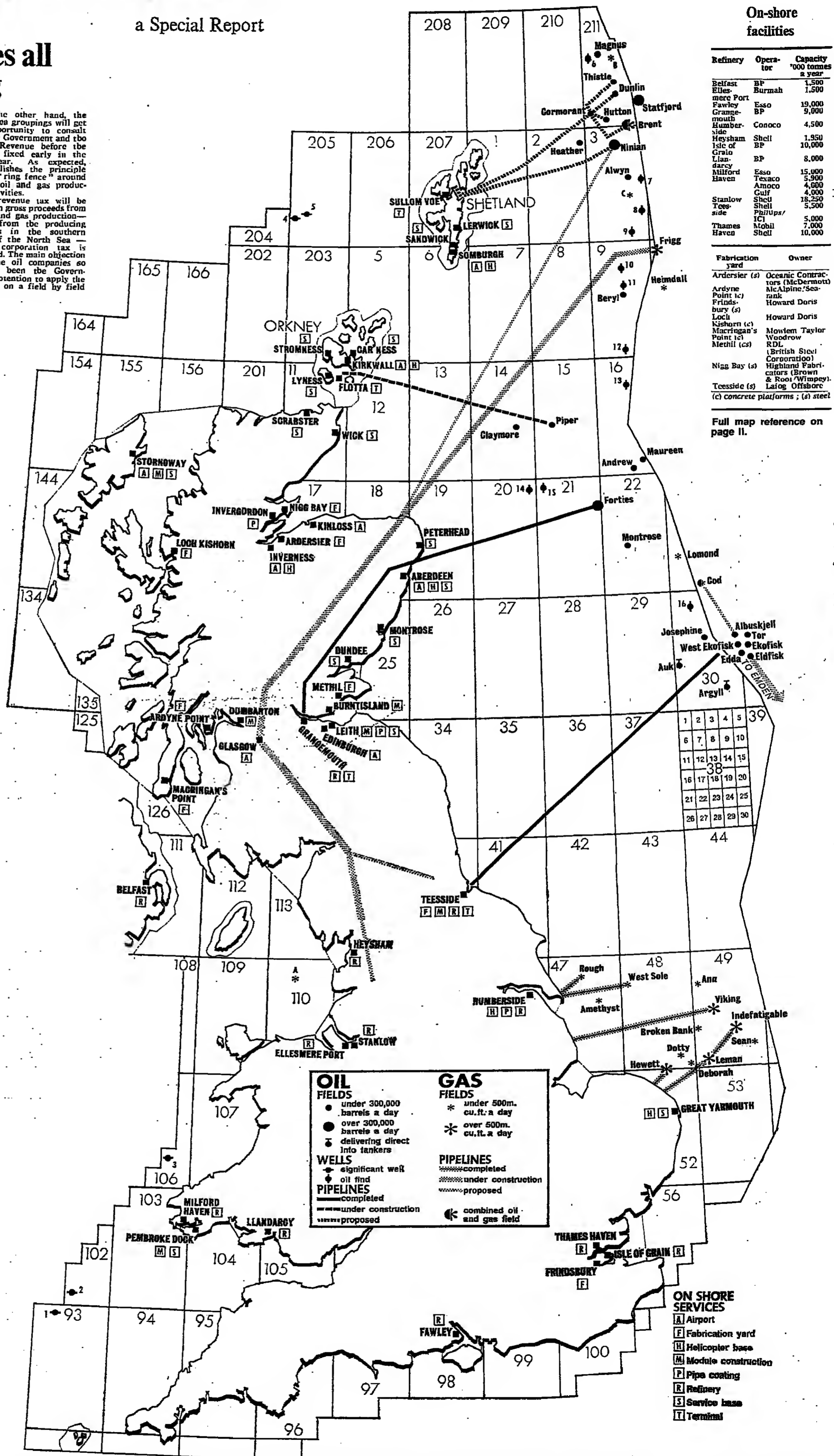
Oil company reaction to the publication of the Oil Taxation Bill last month has also been hostile. The proposed legislation does nothing to remove the uncertainties surrounding the North Sea operations as the actual rate for the new petroleum revenues tax on the gross proceeds from oil and gas operations has not been announced.

On the other hand, the North Sea groupings will get the opportunity to consult with the Government and the Inland Revenue before the rate is fixed early in the new year. As expected, Mr Smith establishes the principle of the "ring fence" around British oil and gas production activities.

The revenue tax will be levied on gross proceeds from all oil and gas production—except from the producing gasfields in the southern basin of the North Sea—before corporation tax is deducted. The main objection from the oil companies so far has been the Government's intention to apply the new tax on a field by field basis.

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Map drawn by Ted Sharpley; research by Roger Viovoys and Richard Sachs.

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TS

Issued by the Department of Energy.

Costs float up as steel drives down

by Roger Vielvoye

Living on a giant, semi-submersible rig drilling for oil in the heaving waters of the North Sea could never be described as glamorous. But as the importance of North Sea oil to the future economic well-being of the country has become apparent, a mystique has grown up around the cold and dirty work of drilling into the waves.

For the first time this summer, the glare of publicity has switched from the explorers to a new type of offshore activity—the installation of permanent facilities in the North Sea to extract the oil and gas from their submarine reservoirs and feed them into the oil-hungry United Kingdom market. Most significant of the developments was the elaboration of a programme by British Petroleum to install the first two oil production platforms on its Forties oilfield. Steel jackets, 420ft high, had to be floated out in the oilfield, about 110 miles east of Aberdeen, from their construction yards on Teesside and at Nigg Bay in Ross and Cromarty.

The operation was one of particular importance in the task of bringing North Sea oil ashore. No one had attempted previously to float out such massive steel structures in water depths of more than 300 ft. However, in spite of a number of minor technical snags, the operation to float out the jackets, then tilt them into a vertical position and sink them to the seabed so that only a few feet were protruding through the waves, was a success.

Giant floating cranes then drove steel piles into the seabed to secure the platforms and a crabs programme was mounted through the autumn to ensure that the modules containing the drilling and other processing equipment were lifted on to the top of the jacket before winter storms made working impossible.

Shell/Esso also completed the installation of a much smaller production platform on its Auk field. While BP has built a pipeline to pump 400,000 barrels of oil a day out of the Forties, Auk is a much smaller field where Shell/Esso is using a different method of production. Oil will be fed direct from the platform into tankers by means of a special mooring buoy, installed this summer.

Not all the installations in the North Sea this year have gone so smoothly. A French-built steel platform being manoeuvred into its final position on the Frigg gas field sank after part of its flotation equipment failed. The structure has since been refloated and positioned properly. The overall success of the summer and autumn, however, has proved that the

equipment designed for the first stage of the North Sea oil development can be installed effectively.

Two more steel platforms for the Forties field and similar structures for the Piper and Brent fields are under construction and will be installed next summer. The next development will be next year when the first of the concrete oil production platforms is installed. Five of these structures, some weighing up to 400,000 tonnes are being built in Norway and the United Kingdom for delivery next year.

Britain aims to be self-sufficient in oil production by 1980. The Department of Energy's assessment of production by this date, issued in May, is an output rate of 100 million to 150 million tons a year, compared with current annual imports of about 100 million tons. It also estimates that United Kingdom offshore waters are capable of maintaining production at 150 million tons a year (three million barrels a day) throughout the 1980s.

Since the estimate was made it has become apparent that the industry will do well to reach the lower range of production estimated by the Government. World shortages of materials, labour problems and general difficulties with producing equipment to the standards needed for the North Sea have contributed to a falling behind in production schedules for offshore oil.

These delays, combined with rapid inflation, have led to spectacular increases in the cost of fields already under development. BP's Forties field, originally budgeted at £16m is now likely to cost more than £630m. BP had the advantage of ordering a large part of the steel for the project before the shortages and inflation made their presence so strongly felt. Shell/Esso's Brent development is likely to cost more than £1,000m.

The industry index for field development is measured in the cost of getting a barrel of oil ashore. BP started the Forties development working on the basis of £1,000 a barrel. The figure is now about £1,500 and Shell/Esso is talking in terms of £2,000 a barrel for Brent. Projects going under way are carrying the full brunt of the unfavourable conditions and the BP/Burmah figure for the development of Ninian could be £3,000 a barrel.

As well as increasing overall costs, project postponements mean delays in obtaining revenues from the field. Mr A. Hols, of Shell, said recently a year's slippage could mean a cash loss of 60 cents a barrel for a small field with a plateau output of 15,000 barrels a day, or 20 cents for a field with a plateau output of 150,000 barrels a day.

Companies must also make provision for the increased cost of installing platforms in deeper water. Esso Petroleum said the shallow water platforms in 100ft to 120ft in the southern North Sea were installed in the 1967-71 period for less than £2m each. For a platform in 275ft the cost rose to £11m and increased according to the water depth to more than £50m for a platform in 500ft of water, ordered for installation in 1977.

The company also quoted the example of a concrete platform, ordered in December, 1973, which is expected to cost about £37m, against a platform of the same design for 35ft deeper water. This was ordered six months later and is expected to cost £54m. Pipelines are also subject to rising costs. Esso said the installed cost of a 30in pipeline in the southern area in 1973 was about 90 per cent higher than in 1970 and the cost of future lines will increase further, largely because of an expected 400 per cent to 500 per cent increase between 1970 and 1976-77 in lay barge costs a day.

Esso finds that offshore pipeline costs are sensitive to

continued on page 14

Significant oil wells
93/2: BP (1 on map).
102/28: Shell (2).
106/24: Atlantic Richfield (3).
205/21: Shell (4).
205/22: BP/Cbevron/ICI (5).

Unnamed oil finds
211/11: Atlantic Richfield group (6 on map).
3/15: Total Marine group (7).
3/25: Total Marine group (8).
3/29: BP/National Iranian Oil Co (9).
9/8: Hamilton Bros group (10).
9/13: Mobil group (11).
9/28: Hamilton Bros group (12).
16/8: Shell/Esso (13).
20/5: Texaco (14).
21/1: Transworld group (15).
30/2: Hamilton Bros group (16).

Other gas finds
Amethyst (47/14): Burmah 32%, ICI 32%, Canadian Industrial Gas 20%, Ocean Drilling and Exploration 6%, Aze Johnson 4%.
Ann (48/6): Phillips group.
Broken Bank (49/21): Conoco 25%, NCB 25%, Arco 12.5%, Cities Service 12.5%, Marathon 12.5%, Burmah 12.5%.
Deborah (48/30): Phillips group.
Doty (48/29/30): Phillips group.
Lonsdale (23/21): British Gas 50%, Amoco 22.22%, Amerada 16.66%, Texas Eastern 11.11%.
Sean (49/25): Esso 25%, Shell 25%, Allied Chemicals 25%, NCB 25%.

Unnamed gas finds (UK)
110/2/7: Hydrocarbons Great Britain (A on map).
211/13: Shell/Esso (B).
3/19: Total Marine group (C).

Operators, output and capacity of oil and gas fields (see map on page 1)

UK sector (oil)						
Field	Block	Operators	Peak production (barrels a day)	Reserves (million barrels)	Progress to date	On stream
Alwyn	3/14	Total Marine 33.33%, Aquitaine 22.22%, Elf 44.45%			Option on one concrete platform	First oil, 197
Andrew	16/26	BP 100%				
Argyll	30/24	Hamilton Bros GB 26.8%, Hamilton Bros Petroleum 7.2%, Texaco 24%, RTZ 25%, Blackfriars 12.5%, TransEuropean 2.3%	40,000	120	Production direct to tanker loading rig	Early 1977
Auk	30/16	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	40,000	100	Steel platform and tanker loading buoy installed	Spring 1977
Beryl	9/13	Mobil 50%, Amerada 20%, Texas Eastern 20%, British Gas 10%	150,000	750	One concrete platform ordered	Mid 1975
Brent	211/25	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	500,000	2,250	Four platforms ordered (three concrete, one steel)	First oil, 11 full product 1980
Extension	3/1	Texaco 100%				
Claymore	14/19	Occidental 26.5%, Allied Chemical 23.5%, Getty Oil 20%, Thomson Scottish Petroleum 20%	100,000	500	One steel platform ordered	1977
Cormorant	211/26	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	100,000	750	One concrete platform ordered	First oil, full output 1977
Dunlin	211/23	Shell 50%, Esso 50%			One concrete platform ordered; member Brent pipeline system	First oil, 1977
Extension	211/24	Conoco 33.33%, Gulf 33.33%, NCB 33.33%	200,000	1,000		
Forbes	21/10	BP 100%			Two platforms installed, two under construction—all steel	Phase one, 1975; phase 1976
Extension	22/6	Shell 50%, Esso 50%	400,000	2,000		
Heather	2/5	Union Oil of California 31.25%, Skelly 31.25%, Tenneco 31.25%, Norwegian Oil DNO 6.25%	150,000	750		
Hutton	211/28	Conoco 33.33%, Gulf 33.33%, NCB 33.33%				
Extension	211/27	Amoco 25.77%, British Gas 25.77%, Amerada 18.08%, Mobil 20%, Texas Eastern 10.38%	150,000	750	Platform tenders invited	1977/78
Josephine	30/13	Phillips 25%, Petrofina 30%, Agip 15%, Century Light and Power 7.22%, Halcyon 4.26%, Diason 4.26%, Oil Exploration 4.26%	50,000	250		
Magnus	211/12	BP	150,000-200,000	750-1,000		
Maureen	16/29	Phillips 33.78%, Fina 29.96%, Agip 17.26%, Century Light and Power 9%, Ultramar 6%, B.E.T. 5%	100,000	500	Platform tenders invited	First oil, 1978
Montrose	22/17-22/18	Amoco 30.77%, British Gas 30.77%, Amerada 23.08%, Texas Eastern 15.38%	50,000	250	One steel platform ordered	1976
Ninian	3/8	BP 50%, Petrofina group 50%			Two platforms ordered (one concrete, one steel)—another possible pipeline ordered from Japan	1976
Extension	3/3	Burmah 30%, ICI 26%, Chevron 24%, Murphy 10%, Ocean Exploration 10%	450,000	1,500		
Piper	15/17	Occidental 26.5%, Allied Chemical 23.5%, Getty Oil 20%, Thomson Scottish Petroleum 20%	250,000	640	One steel platform ordered; pipeline almost complete	1975
Thistle	211/18	Burmah 24%, Santa Fe 22.50%, Union Pacific 22.50%, United Canso 20%, Tricentrol 1%, Charterhouse 1%, Conoco 33.33%, NCB 33.33%, Gulf 33.33%	20,000	1,000	One steel platform ordered	First oil, full product 1979
Extension	211/19	Conoco 33.33%, Gulf 33.33%				
Norwegian sector (oil)						
Albuskjell	3/4	Phillips 36.96%, Petrofina 30%, Agip 13.04%, Petrobore 20%			Two steel platforms ordered	
Extensions	1/6	Shell			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Cod	7/11	Phillips group			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Edda	2/7	Phillips group			Production complete; installed; limited output began 1971	
Ekofisk	2/4	Phillips group			Two steel platforms ordered	First oil, 1977
Eldfisk	3/7-3/8	Phillips group			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Tor	2/4	Phillips group			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Extensions	2/5	Amoco 26.33%, Amerada 28.33%, Texas Eastern 28.33%, Norwegian Oil Consortium 15%				
West Ekofisk	3/4	Phillips group			Steel platform ordered	First oil, 1977
Statfjord	33/9	Statoli 30%, Mobil 15%, Esso 10%, Shell 10%, Conoco 10%, Amoco/Saga 8%	500,000	3,000	One concrete platform ordered	1978
UK sector (gas)						
Field	Block	Operators	Output (million cu ft a day)	Reserves (million million cu ft)	On stream	
Brent	211/29-3/4	Contract under negotiation between British Gas and Shell/Esso/Texaco	600			
Frigg	10/1	Total Marine group	1,400	7.5	1976/77	
Hewlett	48/29-48/30, 52/5	Arpet group Phillips group	600	4.0	1971	
Indefatigable	49/18/23-49/19/24	Amoco 30.77%, British Gas 30.77%, Amerada 23.08%, Texas Eastern 15.38%, Shell 50%, Esso 50%	520	8.0	1971	
Leman	49/26-49/27	Shell 50%, Esso 50%, Amoco/British Gas group as above	1,200	12.5	1968	
Rough	47/8	British Gas 50%, Amoco 22%, Amerada 16.7%, Texas Eastern 11.1%	150		Late 1977	
Viking	49/17-49/12	Conoco 50%, NCB 50%	540	5.0	1972	
West Sole	48/6	BP	300	1.0	1967	
Norwegian sector (gas)						
Ekofisk area	3/4	Phillips group			1976	
Frigg area	25/1/2-30/11	North Hydro 32.87%, Total 20.71%, Aqa sine 13.87%, Elf 14.61%, Statoli 5%	1,400	7.5		
Heimdal	25/4	Pan Ocean 36.96%, Fenogryndre 20.476%, Syracus 15.239%, Summingdale 7.581%, Norsk Hydro 6.920%, Elf 5.814%, Total Marine 4.360%, Aquitaine 2.096%		9.5		
Odin	30/10	Esso				

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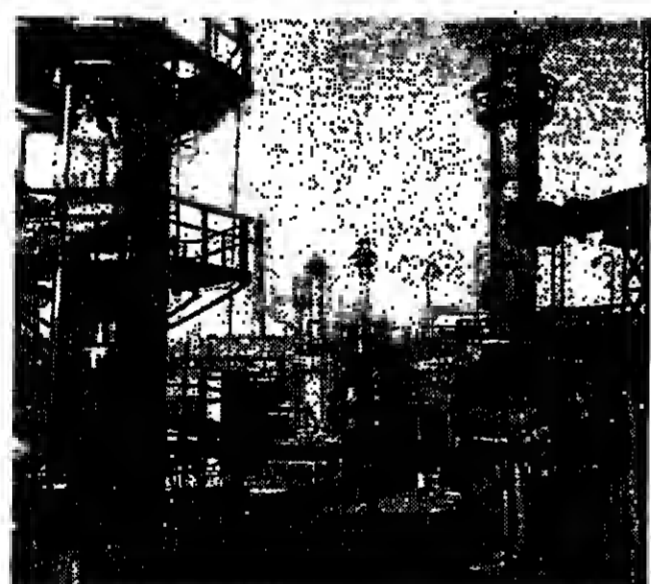
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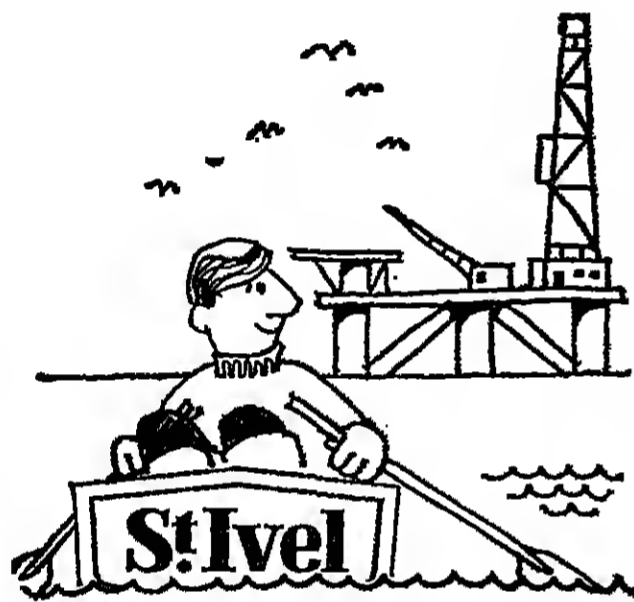
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A long queue for cash in 'Europe's most beautiful oil capital'

by Peter Hill
Mr Charles Jordan is a merchant banker. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, he is based not in the City of London but in Aberdeen, known once as the granite city but now styling itself "Europe's most beautiful oil capital".

It is the oil discovered in huge quantities in the wild waters of the North Sea that has regenerated large tracts of the Scottish east coast—and Aberdeen in particular—and that has attracted Mr Jordan's company, the Charterhouse merchant banking group, to the city.

Mr Jordan is in business to provide and attract capital, and in recent months he has received a steady flow of callers. Young companies, most of them less than two years old (and their executives on the youthful side of 30), have been queuing up for some of the capital that he is keen to introduce into the burgeoning offshore supplies industry. His problem is, of course, that bankers tend to look for a proven five-year financial record before providing the cash to give impetus to a company's further development.

This level of interest is but one illustration of the extent of the complexity and scale of the offshore supply industry.

In the middle of last month the Select Committee on Science and Technology in its report on offshore engineering prefaced its findings with the words: "We have already discovered a wealth of opportunity for energetic British industry. We hope that the Government will understand the exciting challenge of the new territories beneath the seas around us and encourage their exploration

for the good of the whole nation". Even as the report was being printed Mr Fred Chate, general manager for the northern operations of Shell U K Exploration and Production, warned a conference in Aberdeen that plans made so far for supporting the oil and gas exploration and production operations in the North Sea were probably inadequate and would have to be expanded.

"We are looking at a level of exploration effort that could go on for the next 10 or 15 years and, concurrently with that, an increasing build-up in production effort", he said. The scale is enormous enough already. On the basis of the most recent government estimates, total reserves of oil amount to some 1,290 million tons (this figure is being revised upwards almost monthly) and the exploration and development effort involved in terms of financial requirements is vast. One recent survey calculated that over the next decade capital requirements would amount to some £10,000m—excluding exploration in the Celtic Sea and the area west of the Shetlands.

Against these figures it is worth noting that total capital expenditure by British manufacturing industry in 1973 was some £1,900m. It is now reckoned that the value of the United Kingdom offshore market alone is already £500m a year and is rising rapidly. Despite its slow start, British industry is now carving out a much greater share of supplying and servicing this huge industry. Although, in its submission earlier this year to the select committee, the Association of British Oceanic Industries noted that business arising

out of the United Kingdom offshore oil and gas exploration effort represented only about 10 per cent of the present international offshore industry, it is nevertheless a sizable and growing proportion. British industry is already playing an important part in supplying equipment to the offshore oil industry, extending from production platforms and pipes to valves and compressors. Earlier this year it was calculated by the Department of Energy that some 55 major contractors, 800 sub-contractors and 2,000 other companies were involved in supplying goods and services to 13 priority offshore projects.

British-registered companies are, in the aggregate, now estimated to be supplying about 50 per cent of all offshore orders, although the Offshore Supplies Office in its estimates did not disclose the scale of foreign subcontracts within its assessment of business derived from prime contracts.

In some directions British companies are setting the pace. The lower Clyde shipbuilding group of Scott Lithgow, for example, is now building a series of advanced computer-controlled dynamically positioning drill-ships, while the Wabers group is filling a large niche in the highly competitive environment of seabed engineering.

At a more mundane, but nevertheless vital, level the servicing of the offshore oil and gas industry has developed into a prosperous and profitable activity. The ports industry capital investment programme reflects the new levels of activity in several ports which until the oil boom were in decline or static. Supply boats ply a regular service between the

shore bases and the rigs operating in the stormy waters of the North Sea. One recent study indicated that there were some 60 supply vessels at present operating in the North Sea, and for 1974-75 the number is projected at more than 700 by the end of the present decade.

These craft keep the rigs operating, ferrying supplies which for the continuous working of a single rig could involve a daily average tonnage of about 60. This will cover, among other items, fuel oil, drilling mud and chemicals, steel casing, cement, food and water, clothes and general stores. It will probably involve the supply vessel in between 20 and 30 round trips in a month.

Generally two supply ships are required to support the activities of one rig and, with the pace of exploration and development quickening, the number of supply ship operators is growing steadily.

At present there are well over 200 supply ships on order with shipyards throughout the world, with 17 out of the 52 ordered by European-based owners being built in British yards. These represent a useful

boost to British shipbuilders, given that the present cost of such supply ships is between £1m and £1.5m each. The transporting of the men who operate the rigs is largely in the hands of companies operating helicopter services, dominated by British Airways Helicopters and Bristol Helicopters, and both the helicopter with its human cargo and the supply boat with its essential materials are vital to the effective, economic and efficient operation of the rigs and platforms.

Recognizing the importance of the supply boat to the North Sea, the Department of Energy has just commissioned a new study of supply and demand for certain types of boats and ships required for servicing and maintaining mobile rigs and fixed platforms. An earlier investigation indicated that there could well be a shortage of large ocean-going rigs required for the installation of the huge concrete production platforms, and the latest investigation will examine this aspect again.

It will also embrace vessels involved in towing, anchor handling, pipe carrying, general supply, diving support and seabed core sampling.

Throughout British industry, therefore, the requirements of the North Sea in supplies of both equipment and services will be of crucial importance in the years ahead. A small and medium-sized firm, therefore, has a useful one, has firms."

Estimated value of offshore market up to 1980 (£m)

	Capital costs*	Construction
Surveying (inc 12 survey vessels)	20	42
Offshore exploration and drilling (inc 50 rigs, 5 ships)	600	343
Offshore production (inc 42 platforms)	1,079.4	
Pipeline and loading facilities (inc 10 lay/derrick barges, 1,500 miles of pipeline, 12 single point mooring buoys, 5 storage/loading spars)	660.4	58
Offshore services (inc 180 supply vessels, 80 rig tenders, 8 repair ships)	269	29
Diving equipment and services (inc 90 diving systems)	14.7	18
Submersibles	6.4	4
*Inc repairs and maintenance	2,649.9	1,441

These estimates, which the Association of British Oceanic Industries submitted early this year to the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, are based on the value of the pool at the end of 1973. They do not take into account technological advances, such as seabed completion systems, that have occurred since then; nor do they include research and development for construction materials, so operations (such as are required in the event of collapsed forms or ruptured storage tanks or pipelines) or measure controlling marine pollution.

Costs float up as steel drives down

continued from page 11

weather conditions and depth of water. A 36-in pipeline in 400ft to 500ft of water in the northern area, laid in 1976, will cost £800,000 a mile—more than five times as much as a 30-in line laid in 100ft in 1970. The main reason is the limited number of days that a lay barge can work each in year to

rather than giants like Forties, Brent and Ninian. Rising costs could be produced in future exploration drilling programmes. Companies naturally drill their most attractive geological prospects first and are moving into the stage where second rank structures are being probed. As a result, the success rate could decline and smaller fields be discovered,

in the near future that bring overall costs for drilling to about £33,000 a day. The outstanding disc show that the average cost of the year took place of the median line in Norway where the St from about £8,700 a day for a Mobil group found the jack-up rig in 1972 to more than £20,000 a day for a large semi-submersible in 1974, and could extend into U Recent inquiries of rig Kingdom acreage held h owners indicate higher costs Conoco/Gulf/NCB

The risk shadowing our chance of real prosperity

by C. M. Woodhouse

It is clear that most British industrialists, as well as politicians, trade unionists and the general public, have failed to appreciate the real influence that offshore crude oil resources can have on the United Kingdom economy and the standard of living of everyone. The level of our future prosperity depends largely on what happens to the oil after it has been converted into petroleum chemicals.

The flood of confirmed finds reported in recent months has led to revised estimates between 5,500 million and 10,000 million tons of recoverable North Sea crude in the United Kingdom sector, lasting well into the next century. Viewed against current consumption of approximately 100 million tons a year it is all but certain that this country will be self-sufficient in crude oil and natural gas within the next five years, and from the early 1980s could become a net exporter.

However, too many people still seem unaware that offshore oil has changed from being simply a bonus and has become something that means real prosperity. Even

now they appear to regard the future availability of home-produced crude oil as no more than a means to maintain our standard of living. This indeed may well be the best we can hope for, unless we have the foresight to start planning the additional manufacturing facilities which will be needed to process all the raw materials which derive from crude oil.

The history of natural gas provides a pointer to what will surely happen with offshore oil. Over the five-year period from the beginning of 1968 the United Kingdom consumption of gas produced from all sources almost doubled. But more important, as a result of the discoveries in the North Sea, the proportion of natural gas increased from 10 per cent to 30 per cent of the total consumption over that same period. If industry now hesitates to make provision for a similar increase with offshore oil it will be doing the country a disservice from which all will suffer.

While it is relevant to mention in passing the proved contribution of natural gas and the speed at which it has been developed, gas has a limited value to industry, being used largely as a source of energy. Crude oil is a different matter. The multifarious properties of oil are of great importance outside energy uses, and any industrialist whose vision extends beyond his backyard fence should have as his target the conversion of all the raw materials oil provides into finished goods within this country—finished goods which range from high protein foods to glass fibre carpets and cosmetics to man-made fibre textiles and carpets, and from nitrogenous fertilizers and agricultural sprays to packaging materials and detergents.

The effect on employment

The monetary benefit which can be derived from manufacturing and exporting finished consumer goods is two or three times that which can be gained by exporting the chemical fractions, and eight to 10 times greater than selling oil as crude.

Nor must sight be lost of the effect on employment of converting crude into consumer products. Industries in the United Kingdom have technologists capable of exploiting the properties of every oil derivative to the full. If planning is not initiated now, by the early 1980s a large number of people could well be out of work or on short-time while a minimal profit will be made from the export of crude and fractions.

Capacity already exists for refining between 30 and 40 per cent more crude oil than will be needed to meet Britain's total petrol and fuel oil requirements by 1980-81. So the construction and plant manufacturing industries, in the nature of things, will have to provide the production capacity required if Britain is to take advantage of the top slice of profit which can be derived from processing the "non-energy" fractions.

But to plan, design, build, equip and staff a new manufacturing facility and for it

to become fully profitable takes three to five years, and 1980 is now only five years away.

In the past two years the construction and plant manufacturing industries have been afflicted by fluctuation in demand of a magnitude that has dwarfed anything previously recorded in peace time. It is accepted generally that there will be new upward trend in a year, or at the most in two years time. If to this is added a crash programme all the more urgent for having been delayed, to provide new manufacturing facilities to take advantage of the opportunities offered by offshore oil, then serious overheating in both these industries is bound to occur, occasioning delays, material and labour shortages and disproportionately escalating costs. This is a second reason why planning must get under way now, but who will set the ball rolling?

Events in the past few months have clearly shown that the likelihood of the Government on its own being willing or able to undertake this restructuring of industry is remote. World-wide inflation, high taxation, price restraint policies and resulting cash flow problems have severely weakened industry. The attitude of the various agencies is to be to recognize only the short-term situation.

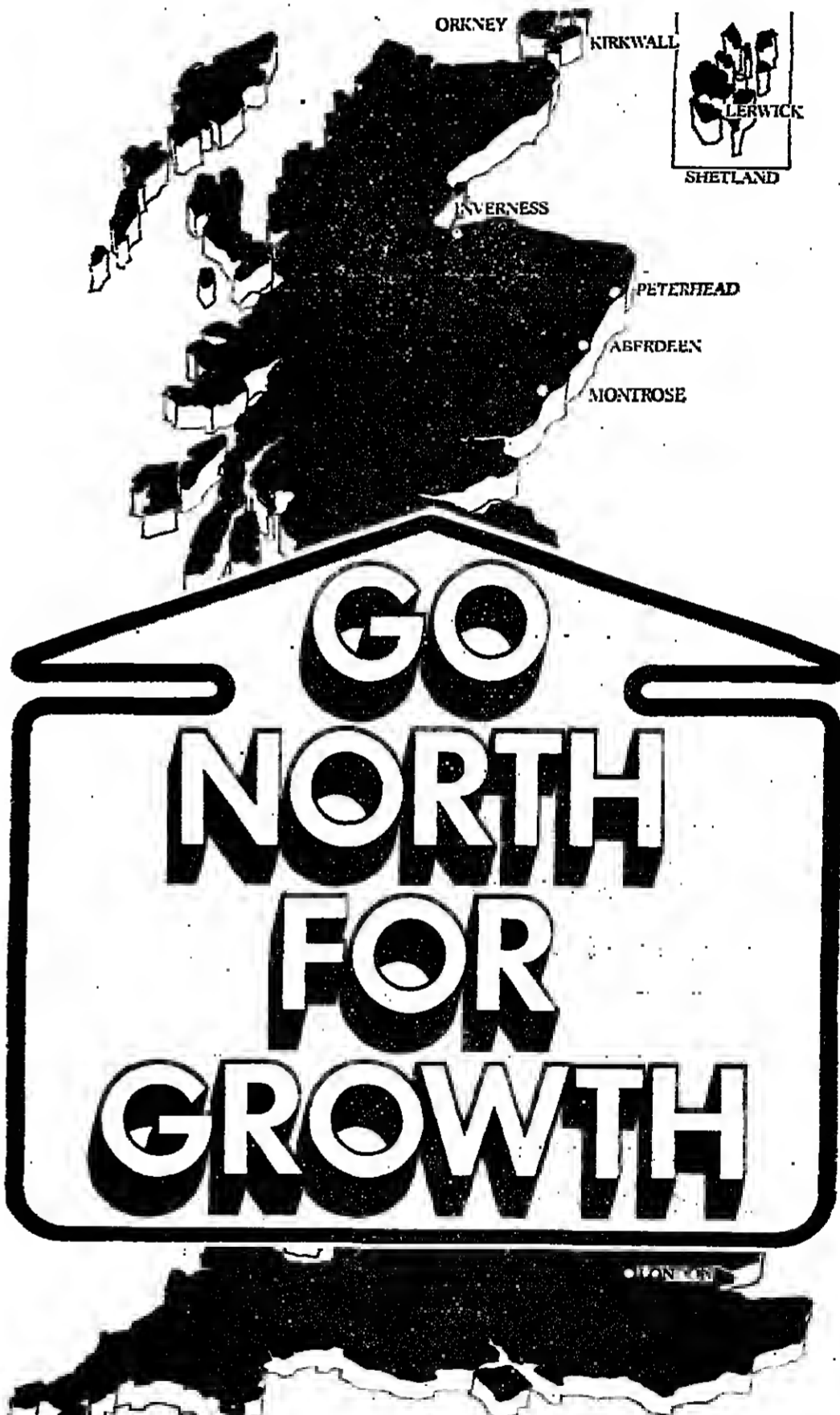
The Government must lead

However, the Government must be prepared to give the lead and to underwrite some of the risks involved, and the Trades Union Congress must appreciate the benefits to its members in securing future full employment and a rising standard of living. Equally industry must be prepared to play its role as the main creator of the nation's wealth and standard of living.

When planning a new production complex experience has shown the necessity of forming from the outset a highly qualified, fully experienced team including general and financial managers, shop floor staff, planners, designers and builders, and other members. To plan to take full advantage of offshore oil, a national team representing the Government, the Confederation of British Industry, the TUC and the building and plant manufacturing industries is urgently needed.

This team will need substantial executive powers to formulate policy, allocate financial and other resources, and ensure that short-term problems are not allowed to prejudice the longer-term national strategy. If on the other hand the opportunities are allowed to go by default and the Government, management and the unions are content to muddle along when the end of the balance of payments problem is in sight, then the penalty in terms of the British standard of living will be crippling.

The author, a director of the IDC Group, was Conservative MP for Oxford from 1959-66 and from 1970 until the last general election. He is a former director of education and training at the CBI.



They used to say that London advertising people believed the British economy ended with the Northern Line.

In Aberdeen we always felt this was probably a slight misrepresentation of the views of our agency friends.

Now some people are saying that with North Sea oil and everything, the British economy only starts at Montrose.

In Aberdeen we think that this is also a slight misrepresentation. But there is something in it.

The morning The Press and Journal and the Evening Express dominate, in circulation terms, the area where most North Sea

oil activities are taking place. The ABC figure for The Press and Journal in the first half of 1974 was a record 111,524. The paper is read by nearly 70% of all adults in the North of Scotland and has become something of an 'oilman's daily'.

The ABC figure for the Evening Express in the first half of this year was 77,575—the best for over a decade.

The Evening Express has a household penetration of more than 80% in Aberdeen, the centre from which most oil developments are directed.

Contact: Bob Gerbert in London on 01-387 2800 or Ken Robb in Aberdeen on 0224 40222.

Source: ABC Mid Sales January-June 1974. Readership of North Scotland 1970. Thomson Regional Newspapers Limited/Research Services Limited.

The PRESS and JOURNAL EVENING EXPRESS
THOMSON REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

مكتبة من الأصل

سكزا من الاصل



The pictures, taken by Mark Edwards shortly before the close of this year's "weather window" show men work on Sea Quest, Britain's only semi-submersible exploration platform. Commissioned by BP in 1966, it is present in Holland undergoing its third major refit.

50 a minute to defy the winter's rigours

ald Faux
 ertful Sikorsky heli-
 wound its blades into
 and lifted from the
 It taxied to the
 the runway at Aber-
 report, now some 30ft
 and was cleared by
 flic control. Tilling
 the aircraft headed
 down the tarmac.
 se chopper drivers
 strated 707 pilots
 a rig worker in
 of me remarked,
 take off like a real
 except that they are
 100ft in the air."
 was bound for the
 Hercules 110 miles
 the North Sea, where
 id spend the next
 four weeks, perhaps
 With a fussy beat of
 ors, the helicopter
 the coast between
 en and Porthcarr
 narrow blade of sand
 k. The sea lay grey
 ter beaten by pale
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 long, invisible spine
 ch seamed stretching
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 d basin down to the
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 rish oil would be
 ashore early next

ew across the white
 eading to and from
 n and Peterhead,
 g the insatiable rigs
 ertvying from heavy
 lobster mayonnaise.
 raft slid down a
 beam and loaded
 on the Hercules,
 unloaded its passen-
 nd took to the air
 a smooth five-mile
 across the Forties
 id set down again on
 lip of the barge

van Linnine, the de-
 eot manager for the
 Petroleum Forties
 let us and greeted us
 me impressive statis-
 The 400 men with
 igs and cranes and
 ul machinery had
 to work throughout
 iter when prudent oil-
 normally decide to
 own and move ashore,
 oil is needed

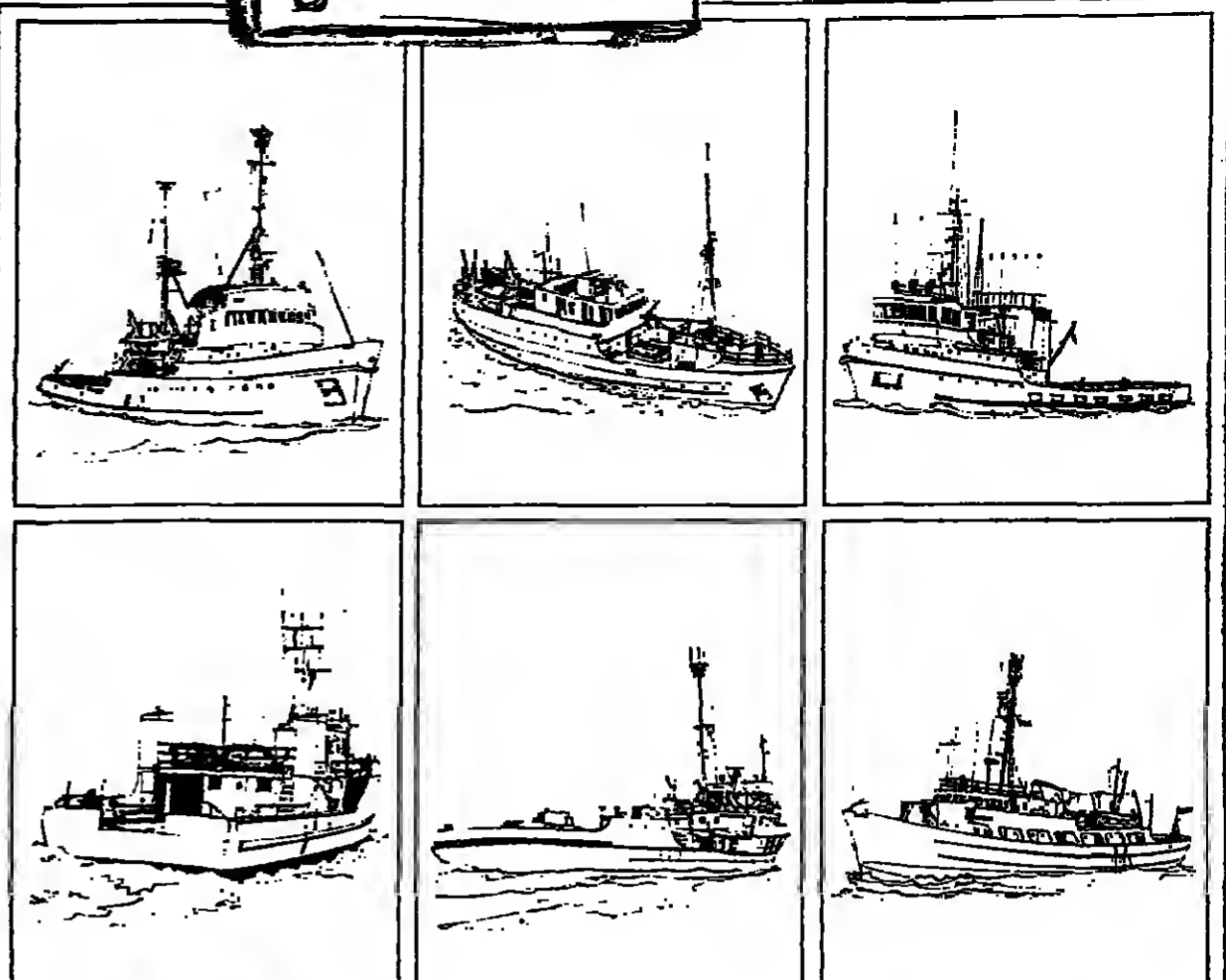
urgently and the cost of ex-
 tracting it is rising rapidly.
 BP had decided to jaoi open
 the weather window and
 work on the gund weather
 days between now and next
 spring.
 Glancing at a sheet of
 statistics, Mr Linnine an-
 nounced that this decision
 would add £20m to the
 £600m cost of developing
 Forties: in other words, up
 to £400,000 a day, or £250
 for every working minute.
 The operation had already
 added impressively to the
 Guinness Book of Records by
 moving almost 2,000 tons in
 one lift, using the massive
 crane on the stern of the
 Thor. This was the heaviest
 lift afloat ever made, he
 claimed.
 Everything out here
 seems to be a first that we
 have to get absolutely
 right", he remarked, with
 the air of a mao surfing
 ahead of some huge techno-
 logical breaker.

logical breaker.
 up to three months on
 board working when the
 weather allows in 12-hour
 shifts. According to Mr
 Roy Jenkins, an American
 oil man who works at Mr
 Linnine's right hand, care-
 ful selection of workers is
 crucial. "A man has got to
 fit in properly out here. It
 can be hard. If he doesn't
 fit, he is not invited back."
 There are more than 2,000
 oow at work in the small,
 moorastic and liquorless
 world of the North Sea rigs.
 When the weather is
 reasonable, you work
 damned hard. When it is
 bad the wind really comes
 at you and we all expect one
 of those 94-ft waves that are
 supposed to come once a
 century. The platforms are
 designed to stand them", a
 rig worker said.

Everything is provided
 and there is nothing to
 spend money on, so a skilled
 man may return ashore after
 a long spell on duty with
 £1,000 or more in his bank
 account. The only luxury
 is the food, with lobster
 following the finest steak.
 It costs between £3 and
 £4 a day to feed one man on
 an oil rig. Superb food is
 about the only indulgence

the contractors can allow
 their captive work force.
 There are now some 40 rigs
 in the North Sea and with
 the crews of the pipe-laying
 barges, the total catering
 market represents business
 worth more than £5m a
 year. Ashore and at sea the
 oil industry moves in impres-
 sively big figures.
 Inflation and the prob-
 lems of supplying the rigs
 have made it difficult for
 catering firms to meet the
 high standards demanded
 and still make a profit. This
 section of the industry has
 been marked by severe
 losses and takeovers, but
 the market remains to be
 met and in the next three
 years 50 more rigs and
 platforms are expected to
 be built with their voracious
 demands for service which
 it is hoped will be met by
 British companies. But in
 the experience of one
 supplier, the oil contractors

are hard but fair customers
 to deal with. The price
 had to be reasonable and
 delivery guaranteed.
 "This applies to every-
 thing from food, bedding
 and lamp bulbs to the tech-
 nical supplies", he said.
 The contractors in the North
 Sea may be isolated and
 vulnerable to supply short-
 ages and industrial disputes
 which could inflate the final
 cost of extracting the oil.
 But BP is quietly envied by
 many other operators be-
 cause their heavy capital
 phase was completed before
 inflation escalated every
 aspect of the operation.
 Costs are rocketing and the
 Offshore Supplies Office
 estimates the value of
 equipment needed by the
 offshore oil and gas indus-
 tries has reached £500m a
 year. Of this, British sup-
 pliers are believed to have
 won 50 per cent. The sup-
 plies office, the North-east



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Riches bring their griefs

The first oil from the British sector of the North Sea has yet to come ashore, but the effects on Scotland have already been positive and far-reaching. Both economically and politically, the energy reserves locked beneath the seabed of the Scottish coast have sparked off a new and welcome prosperity from Cromarty to the Firth of Forth.

The area most dramatically affected has been Aberdeen. The oil industry has fairly stood the granite city on its head and is forcing almost every street in the area to expand. The signs are clear, although still a little tentative. Aberdeen airport has become the busiest in the British regions and is now the headquarters for British Airways' helicopter operations. Around the airport there has been a rapid spread of industrial estates with many companies directly or indirectly connected with the oil industry. Shell-Esso moved to Aberdeen in the early days of oil development and created a magnet for the rest. The spin-off has already been impressive. Union Street accommodates almost every principal building society; big stores have increased; the oil companies plan prestige offices and traders report surging business.

the city is the main base for the Scottish trawling fleet. To recent years the 100 company owned boats have earned spectacularly well and the fish market is being modernized and extended. Rationalization has brought great efficiency and throughout Scotland there are now some 8,000 fishermen, some of them earning between £100 and £120 a week.

This new prosperity is threatened from several directions. The price of fuel is driving up the cost of putting a trawler to sea. European Economic Community laws and limits on fishing areas threaten further to restrict the activities of Scottish fishermen and a levelling-off in fish prices has helped to depress profits.

"All this could make a sharp pin to burst the prosperity we have been enjoying", one trawler operator said. "If the industry cannot support the present wage levels, there is a strong chance that some men will drift away into the oil."

As the lines on the graph for cost and profit grow increasingly closer, boats could be forced to lay up and men could be thrown out of work. It had not happened yet, but the signs were there that it could happen.

Peterhead, once a quiet fishing port, now has pipe lines rearing out of the sea to the north and south. The harbour has been enlarged and it is busy ships waiting the oil rigs 100 miles and more away. The fishing fleet fits into the thriving pattern of activity but, perhaps significantly, a fishing vessel recently turned away from the harbour and diverted to Aberdeen. There was no room in Peterhead for it to tie up and unload.

Any population drift from the region has ended. In the Highlands the black oil will prove a modern equivalent of the Cheviot sheep and the hunted stag which in earlier years represented ruin to a dear of Highlanders. They are the oil companies will take all the profit and leave Scotland with all the scars.

The Government firmly rejects this possibility and seems determined on driving a dash of exceptional success to the oil companies. Shetland County Council promoted its own Bill to give local control over oil developments in the islands. They have also made other agreements designed to make the maximum local benefit from this giant which has emerged from the sea.

It will be interesting to see how this legislation will stand alongside the Government's latest proposed measures for taking over land for oil-related development. Mr Bruce Millan, Minister of State at the Scottish Office who is responsible for oil, sees no cause for regret in the oil discoveries. Already, he said, the Scottish rate of unemployment was improving against that of England and a population loss of 45,000 a year 10 years ago had been turned into a net gain of 500 last year - the first real gain for 40 years. The change in fortunes had been wrought by the exploitation of North Sea oil. This new industry had radically changed the whole of Scotland's industrial and social future.

Well over 500 companies in Scotland had already secured part of the new boom. The public sector aimed to build more than

More mobility needed

The oil platform builders were rejected from Drum-bule but have been allowed to settle at Loch Kishorn on the opposite shore of Loch Carron in Wester Ross. Ardyne Point on the Clyde, where the McAlpine sea tank consortium have invested more than £5m in a huge platform yard could help the unemployment levels in west central Scotland if the workforce was prepared to be more mobile.

There are other sites on the Clyde under negotiation. It is hoped that they will attract more of the oil wealth and soften this growing picture of Scotland as a divided nation with an affluent east and an economically struggling west.

The industry has fitted into the Scottish scene most easily at such locations as Ardersier, which is conveniently close to Governess and Nafrin and yet is visually isolated from both. The Highlands Fabricators yard at Nigg, near the mouth of Cromarty Firth, lies in a landscape so spectacularly broad that the cranes and massive units of steel are swallowed up. So, too, is the shining metal of an aluminium works. A refinery is planned there as well, if a public inquiry turns down the 500 objections.

Yet for all this large-scale, fuming industry it could be argued that the landscape of Easter Ross has barely been scratched by such a sudden influx of industry wanting to use its flat shores and deep, sheltered waters. For the people in Cromarty, Aines, Invergordon and Tain, oil may be a cause for short-term inconvenience but not, on present evidence, for long-term grief.

Is your company in a position to take advantage of Britain's Oil and Gas boom?



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links to many major European cities and North America. Whist within 50 miles of the North West lies over 60% of all U.K. engineering, and over 50% of all manufacturers. Everything you could possibly need is on your doorstep.



Before making any decision on re-location or expansion, look to the future, look to the North West. The North West Industrial Development Association will give advice and a whole range of data, on how you can put your company in a position to share in the most significant industrial opportunities since the Industrial Revolution. The person to contact is Clifford Chapman.

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ECL Corporate Communications Systems, The Colonnades, 82 Bishop's Bridge Road, Bayswater, London W2, England.

Hard climb up engineering 'ladder' to win seabed riches

by Jack A. Davis editor, Petroleum International

The North Sea means something special to us in Britain because it will supply all of our hydrocarbon energy requirements, give or take a barrel, by 1980.

To the oil industry, used though it is to bringing off ambitious oil production ventures around the world, the North Sea also has a significance. This climatically hostile continental shelf area has become a ladder with rungs of technological innovation and development. The companies working to get oil and gas out of the North Sea have been forced to climb this engineering ladder. Formidable offshore production costs, the weather, environmental considerations and sheer pioneering attitudes have coupled the industry to make the technical ascent of their last, elsewhere. Nearly all the international oil companies have chosen to stay and persevere.

The North Sea, unequalled for its long periods of brutal weather, has presented the companies with a vast new oil production engineering specifications book. Technological innovation, improvement and complex cost-awareness calculations have been demanded from those companies operating in the North Sea, as in no other offshore area in the world. In the Arctic regions, incidentally, are setting similarly stringent technical requirements because of the climate; but the one benefit here is that they are onshore.

In almost every aspect connected with exploration and production in the North Sea has demonstrated its ability to send designers and civil and marine engineers back to their drawing boards to devise bigger, stronger and safer methods of production. There are three basic parameters which govern all operations off our eastern coastline: winds, waves, and

seabed conditions. The first two are irrevocably entwined. But intimate knowledge of all three is essential for the design and installation of offshore structures and pipelines. Before the oil industry started studying the North Sea, little was known about the environment and almost nothing about the seabed conditions far offshore. Granted there was little or no incentive, apart from the thirst for knowledge, so the area had plenty of surprises in store for the oilmen when they came to work in it.

Using weather ships and daily weather reports from the drilling rigs, the oil industry is compiling data, day-by-day, on what wind speeds, wave heights and wave forces are being experienced in many different areas of the North Sea. The industry needs to know so offshore production can be designed to withstand the weather. But the stress analysis wants to know what forces in design to and the difficulty is in extrapolating how bad a storm is likely to be experienced during the life of the oilfield. Not an easy task, and complicated by the desire not to spend more money than is necessary by over-designing.

Steel production platforms are piled into the seabed, down to about 250ft below the mud line in the case of the larger units, and the engineers have to know the load-bearing characteristics of the seabed. Extensive work is being carried out by soil mechanics experts, using new techniques, to sample the sub-seabed layers and to profile various thicknesses of mud, boulder clay, and sands in the North Sea.

Driving the huge 54in diameter piles 250ft into the seabed has also called for new technology. The world's biggest pile hammer has had to be designed and built, with a rating of 7,000ft a lb, specially for the North Sea operations.

When the pile is in place, new colloidal types of grout have been developed to ensure the highest possible steel-to-steel bond strengths between the pile and the pile sleeve on the platform. For the first time breech-block connectors have been designed and built for the 54in diameter piles.

Offshore jacket structures made of steel contain many nodes, points at which several tubular members meet. The Forties field platforms for British Petroleum involved a number of these nodes which demanded complicated welding of the highest order. Now, for the second two platforms, under construction, BP has redesigned the nodes to give lower stress concentrations. The first nodes were fabricated of steel with a maximum thickness of 2 1/2 in. and were heavily sulfured inside. The new node design makes use of thick walled steel, up to 5 1/2 in. thick, and no internal ring stiffeners.

The project has involved many hours of stress analysis and welding research, at considerable cost, in seeking the solution to a problem which had never arisen before production platforms were designed for the North Sea. Because of the excessive stresses across the grain of the steel at these node joints, engineers have begun to use through-thickness strength steels for the first time in this application. Offshore pipeline laying and protection have also been technically advanced by North Sea operations. The concrete coating on offshore pipelines is really a weight coating, but concrete mixes have been specially designed for the North Sea which give protection against violent physical damage, perhaps from a trawl board or dragging anchor.

A concrete mix devised by BP for its Forties pipelines has high-impact resistance characteristics and is therefore more expensive

than any previously used on an offshore pipeline. Another new concrete mix is on the way which incorporates iron ore and mill-ends of small steel reinforcing fibres which are said to give a high strength to the coating.

Because these concrete coatings are strong and therefore rigid and because offshore pipelines have to follow an S curve when they are laid from the sea platform out in the North under present conditions, narrow grooves have to be cut around the coating so that it can flex without cracking. At first these grooves were sawn with diamond-tipped saws once the concrete had set. Now even newer pipeline technology cuts the groove with a fine jet of water, while the concrete is still setting.

Another new piece of offshore pipeline technology has just had its first try-out. This was the mid-point connection of the 32in, 110-mile Forties pipeline laid from the shore and from the field towards the middle. A welded tie-in of this magnitude had never been attempted before in 330ft of water. Considerable prior engineering studies were involved and the net result is that new equipment and techniques were used for the first time in the North Sea.

In the operation the two ends of the pipeline were picked up from the sea floor, welded together, then lowered back again. This sounds simple enough, but before the operation took place the relevant loads and stresses had to be analysed in great detail and much new information amassed about joining pipelines in deep water. At the join-up, a welded connexion, half a mile of coated pipe was lifted and held off the

seabed. New types of clamps and auxiliary buoyancy tanks were built especially for the job. When production platform jackets are piled into the seabed, the deck sections are later added and welded on to complete the structure. The deck sections are built on land and loaded there for the sea voyage as modules, to be joined up when in position on the sea platform out in the North under present conditions.

Heavy production modules being built have called for the construction of the world's mightiest offshore derrick barges able to lift 2,000 tons fixed, or up to 1,500 tons revolving. These new crane barges have been built with North Sea operations in mind. But their big lift capacities will be of great value eventually in other marine engineering operations around the world.

With permanent production platforms costing so much there is certainly a case to be made for subsea well completions in the North Sea. Four such subsea completions have been in use in the Ekofisk field in Norwegian waters for some time, with great success. More companies will undoubtedly use them as above-sea construction costs escalate. Although these devices are not technically new, their use in the North Sea will give the worldwide sales a boost.

Tropospheric scatter radio communications is being used for the first time outside the military by the oil companies in the North Sea. This technology means that eventually the oilfields could be remotely controlled from a shore base with wells and power plants being closed or controlled at the touch of a button 250 miles away.

But although the ability there, it is doubtful if necessary additional ware will be added to platforms yet. The oil companies are faced with a lot to man their off-shore facilities with enough to deal with any emergency that might arise. Therefore the coast-guarded oil production platforms in the North Sea is not accepted under present conditions.

Divers are essential in North Sea operations. The use of midge mares, rather than bells, which have a physical umbilical connection to a mother ship further this technology. Diving operations are long and hazardous, and require a lot of man power. The construction of production facilities offshore, including being developed and refined for the North Sea will have potential application other offshore engineering around the world.

Video tapes are also used by these submersible film the parts of the water structures. The engineers want to see North Sea engineers and do so down in submarines, another benefit is that the tapes can be studied in the engineering departments by pairs of experienced divers for every day of a party. New oilfield construction barges mean of £20,000 in £40,000 video tape studies. A home-based engineer help to reduce the involvement in mid-sea operations then the can be considerable.

Post Office improves links between rigs and land

by Kenneth Owen Technology Correspondent

A new requirement has arisen in the North Sea oil and gas fields for improved and expanded communications between the offshore platforms and onshore terminals.

New services are being introduced by the Post Office, new technology is being applied, and a new industrial effort is being made to meet this specialized market.

Among the first special services to be provided by the Post Office for the oil exploration rigs were new high-frequency radio facilities at the corporation's coastal stations at Humber, Stonehaven, near Aberdeen, and Norwich in the Shetland Isles. These provided exclusive teleprinter channels and shared telephone channels for the rigs; they were an extension of the existing maritime radiotelephony services.

Since 1965 mobile drills, support and supply vessels, and pipe-layers have been using these conventional Post Office services. A major development designed to cope with the oil production phase, beginning in 1975, was announced by Sir Edward Fennessy, managing director of Post Office Telecommunications, just over a year ago.

The new programme, costing £5m, was to provide reliable, high-quality communications for the North Sea gas and oil production platforms. It would involve the construction of two new £300,000 radio stations, one at Scousburgh in the Shetlands and the other at Mormond Hill, 30 miles north of Aberdeen.

These sites are strategically placed to serve production areas from the Forties oilfield off Aberdeen, the Brent and other oilfields north and west of the Shetlands.

Because many of the gas and oilfields are well out of sight of land, the Post Office's North Sea Task Force chose an over-the-horizon technique of radio transmission known as tropospheric scatter. This had been used in defence communications and was being introduced for certain private systems in the North Sea, but it was new to the Post Office.

In this type of system a narrow beam of microwave energy is transmitted, almost parallel to the ground, towards the receiving station. Part of this energy will be scattered by turbulence in the troposphere, the lower part of the atmosphere.

If this same part of the troposphere can be viewed by the aerial at the receiving station, a weak version of the transmitted signal can be picked up. Special techniques are used to improve the quality of the received signals.

The two new radio stations will provide direct communications to "master" production platforms which, in turn, will relay signals to other platforms in the area by ordinary microwave (line of

sight) links using smaller dish aerials.

These services are planned to start in October, 1975, initially to the deep-water platforms now being built for the Total, Mobil and Occidental groups of companies. From the Shetlands the Post Office will communicate alternately with the Total Frigg platform or the Mobil Beryl platform. The offshore terminals will be linked by line-of-sight radio to carry circuits to the other company's installation.

From the north-east Scotland terminal the Post Office will communicate alternately with the Total pipeline manifold station or the Occidental Pipe platform. From there will be line-of-sight links between the offshore terminals. This pattern is expected to be repeated in other areas as the demand grows.

The Post Office land terminals will connect into the United Kingdom national telecommunications network to provide circuits into companies' premises for teleprinter, teletype and data, teletext, and data. Access to the international telex and telephone networks could also enable the platforms to make telex and telephone calls to virtually anywhere in the world.

In a policy statement on North Sea communications, the Post Office said last year: "When interconnection with the Post Office's public telecommunications services is required, the system as a whole must be engineered and operated to Post Office standards and practices to ensure satisfactory performance."

"This will normally make it necessary for the Post Office itself to run at least the shore-based portion of the system. If it proved necessary for the Post Office to become involved in the offshore part of the system, it might also run those parts of the system itself; or act through one of the operators concerned, or act through an agent or subcontractor to those operators."

Private communication links, not involving interconnection with the national network, can be installed by the energy companies themselves, once approval has been given by the Post Office and the Home Office.

Thus British Petroleum and Phillips Petroleum had already initiated their own respective North Sea communication links well before the Post Office announced its £5m scheme. BP's installation, now being implemented, represents the first commercial application of a tropospheric-scatter system in the United Kingdom and is claimed to be the first in the world for the purposes of offshore oil production.

BP's tropospheric link from the company's terminal at Brimmond Hill near Aberdeen to its platforms in the Forties field is a vital, integral part of its system for controlling and supervising the production and distribution of oil from this field.

At the heart of the system is an operations centre at Dyce, Aberdeen. This centre is linked to the field itself via Brimmond Hill; and to

points along the pipeline which runs from the Cruden Bay terminal to the Grangemouth refinery.

Local control and supervision is associated with data transmission to Dyce. Here computers and telemetry systems will handle the coordination of production control, monitoring of oil pipelines and terminals, and preparation of oil accounting information.

Later, the supervision of production control from Dyce is envisaged, together with automatic well testing and possibly the remote control of heavy plant and electrical switching on the platforms. This represents a commitment, but the system is designed to be developed in this way if this proves feasible.

Before the tropospheric link to the Forties oilfield, ultra-high-frequency and microwave links had been introduced in gas fields to the south. Based on metered measurements of pressures, temperatures and flow rates, gas production had been controlled remotely from the BP control room at Eastington.

Phillips Petroleum has also chosen tropospheric technology to communicate between Teesside and the oil production facilities at Ekofisk in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. The 210-mile pipeline will have two intermediate pumping stations; there will be one full link from Teesside to Ekofisk, and two shorter links, one to the nearer pumping station from each extremity.

Many of the well known communications companies have focused their attention on this new expanding market. Marconi Communication Systems is supplying tropospheric equipment for BP, Phillips and Total; and has delivered Autospec error-correcting equipment to improve the quality of teleprinter communications via the Post Office coastal stations.

Standard Telephone and Cables is now marketing a 12-circuit submarine cable system for offshore communications. Cable and Wireless and International Aeradio, which have separately acted as consultants for Mobil and Occidental respectively, recently announced the formation of a new jointly-owned company to be known as Energy Communications. This company will offer consultancy, financing and supply, installation and maintenance services; and will provide permanent communications systems and ancillary services in the offshore production areas.

For the future, the use of satellites to cope with the further expansion in communication needs for the North Sea is a likely development. Norway is interested in using a satellite link for its North Sea communications and the European Space Research Organization has been examining the prospects for supplying such a service.

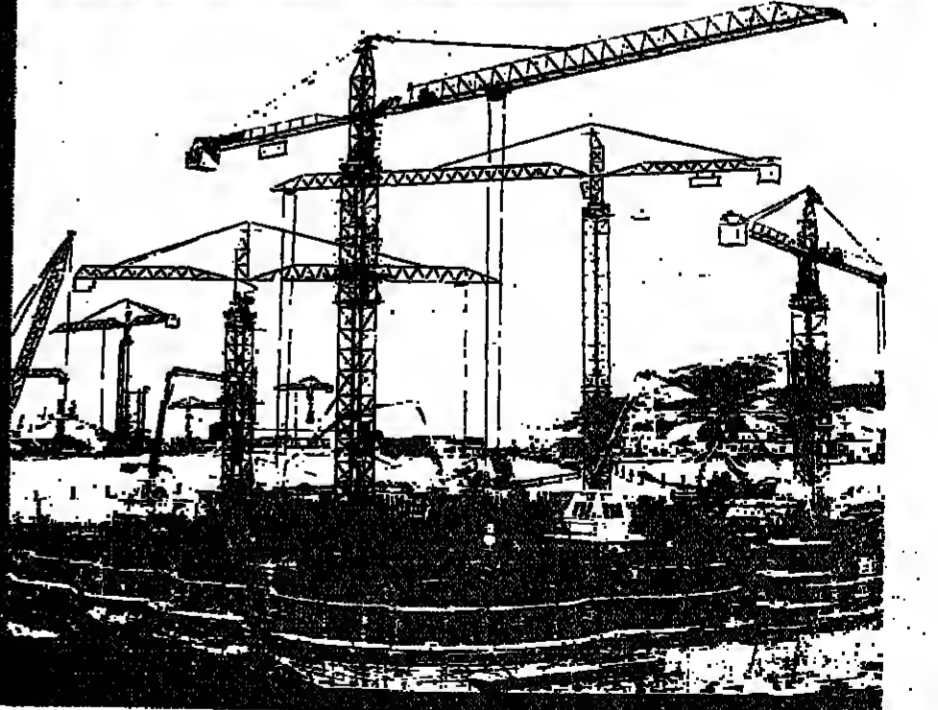
Help with the pictorial preparation of this Special Report was given by the Bank of Scotland Oil Division and Wood Gundy.

Richards & Wallington helping to bring the oil-rich future near



Everyone realises the importance of the development programmes of companies involved in the exploitation of North Sea oil.

Richards & Wallington are helping. Such as speeding up production on this drilling platform section with a 105 ton capacity and a giant 300 ton capacity crane - on hire from British Crane Hire Corporation, a member of the R & W Group.



Here, eight tower cranes from Record Patain, another R & W subsidiary, are working round the clock - placing reinforcing steel and concrete on two production platforms.



Richards & Wallington Industries Ltd

The name of the crane hire game

Group Head Office, Wharf Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2J
Tel: 021-706 6181 Telex: 339540

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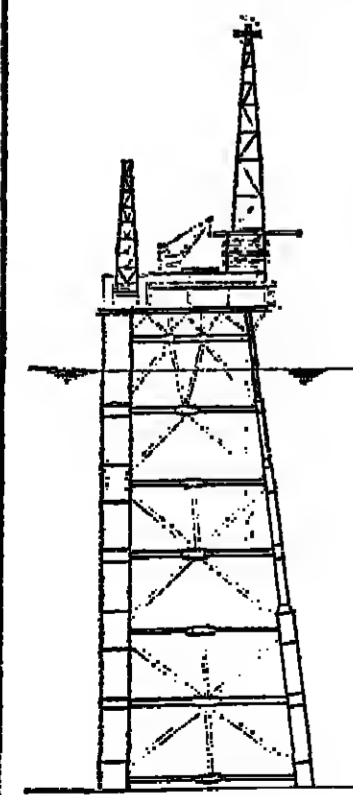
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- In Norway: Rolf Lycke A/S, Rådhusgatan 3, Box 552, Oslo 1 Norway Phone: 02142 06 74 Telex: 11257
- In Denmark: Stålrör i Halmstad A/S, Store Strandstræde 20, DK-1255 Copenhagen K Denmark Phone: 0114 47 00 Telex: 15187
- In Finland: Poljarputki Oy, Bergmansgatan 3, 00141 Helsinki 14, Finland Phone: 0133 70 Telex: 12-2443

OFFSHORE STRUCTURE DESIGNS

CJB-Earl and Wright Limited is an Anglo-American Engineering Company formed jointly by CJB Ltd, a subsidiary of John Brown Ltd, and Earl and Wright of San Francisco.

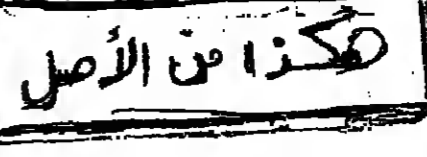
The Company is presently engaged in the design of several major piled steel structures for 1976-7 installation in the North Sea; and also involved in various other designs for the Offshore Industry.



CJB EARL AND WRIGHT LIMITED

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SUMMIT DID MAKE PROGRESS

European summit produced... gifts for everyone. The... got the prestige of being...

have not been able to exercise... their power effectively, partly... because of divergent national...

Europeans could hardly make... concessions to a government... which would not say whether...

FREEDOM OF THE ADVERTISER

has been a serious protest... an advertisement sent... yesterday. The advert...

advertiser is one of the essential... freedoms of the press. The... opposition of The Times...

Communists in Britain who... sympathize with or have faith... in the Soviet Government...

THE BILL COMES FIRST, THE SCHEME LATER

Mr Jenkins, the minister... responsibility for the arts... indicated how he intends...

transactions. Painters who sell... a work to a public collection... are not to be paid so much...

principle is by directly relating... what individual authors get out... of the scheme to a reasonably...

British Leyland and the City

From Mr Roger W. Marsh

Sir, It has been apparent for... some years that British Leyland... has been a victim of industrial...

MPs barred from steelworks

From Mr Gwynfor Evans, Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen

Sir, There has been considerable... discussion in recent years of... industrial democracy, of giving...

Academics' respect for truth

From Professor J. A. G. Griffith

Sir, Sir Keith Joseph's reply... (December 4) in my challenge... because of a trick, dear to...

Forecasts on inflation

From the Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research

Sir, Dr Thirlwall thinks that... the publication by the National... Institute of Economic and Social...

Raising money for clergy stipends

From the Secretary to the Church Commissioners

Sir, No one would question the... Reverend D. B. Webb's emphasis... upon the need for a financial...

Remarriage of divorcees

From Miss Heather Jenner

Sir, I do so hope that the... tolerant view of the Bishop of... Southwark quoted in The Times...

Britain and Middle East

From Mr John Benjamin Simon

Sir, I have been a reader of your... newspaper for a number of years... and I am absolutely shocked by...

Planning delays

From the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, Your leading article (December... 6) was right in saying that... the architect who complained of...

Buses in convoy

From Mr Leon Kreitzman

Sir, This morning I saw three buses... all with driver under instruction... signs, proceeding in a convoy...

MCC touring teams

From Lt Col D. M. Prichard

Sir, The injuries and ailments of... the English team in Australia... are in strange contrast to the...

Work before university

Professor John A. Davis

propos the correspondence in... columns on the desirability of... taking a year off academic...

School reading habits

From Mr S. Denerley

Sir, What a funny world we... educationalists inhabit! A body of... experts has just discovered...

Work before university

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propos the correspondence in... columns on the desirability of... taking a year off academic...

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OBITUARY

DAME NANCY PARKINSON

International friendship

Dame Nancy Parkinson, DCMG, CBE, who died on Tuesday, was one of those women, fortunately not uncommon in the history of this country...

MR THOMAS R. HENN

Mr T. R. Henn, CBE, who has died at the age of 73, was Emeritus Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge...

Black berets and dark glasses a uniform

The section referred to a person in a public place wearing a uniform... The Queen's Bench Divisional Court dismissed appeals by...

MR L. H. STOREY DR ADAM RUTHERFORD

Mr Leslie H. Storey, who died on December 9 in a Liverpool hospital, after a brief illness, was 69. He trained initially as a chartered accountant...

Mr Douglas Arthur Porteous, CB, Deputy G.M.A. Registrar between 1953 and 1962, retired, died at the age of 82.

Suppers

Anglo-Swiss Society Mr W. A. de Vlieg addressed members of the Anglo-Swiss Society on experiences in modern management at Stiboners' Hall...

Institution of Production Engineers

The president, Mr Brian P. Smith, gave a supper party at the Royal Society on the night of a hoover...

Degree for Queen

Cambridge University Senate has invited the Queen of Denmark to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Law on June 5, 1975.

Birthdays today

Sir Kenneth Blackburne, 67; Major-General Sir Rupert Brazier, 65; Air Commodore Dame Felicity, 65; Sir Frederick...

Dinners

Reclamation Industries Council The Duke of Edinburgh attended a dinner given by the Reclamation Industries Council at the Ritz Hotel on Tuesday.

Chamber of Shipping

The annual dinner of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom was held at Grosvenor House last night.

Today's engagements

The Prince of Wales opens Snowdonia Ltd factory, Bridgend, 12.25; attends Welsh premiere of Man of the Ocean Express, followed by reception, Cardiff, 7.55.

General Sir Philip Christou and Mrs W. Wallace Smith

The marriage took place quietly in London between Sir Philip Christou, Major-General in the British Army, and Mrs W. Wallace Smith...

Science report Atmosphere: Effect of dust

The presence of dust particles in the atmosphere could cause either a net cooling or a net warming, depending on the properties of the particles and of the underlying surface...

Receptions

Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was present at a reception given by the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea at Chelsea Old Town Hall yesterday evening.

Luncheons

British Medical Association Mr Walpole Lazenby, chairman of council, British Medical Association, gave a luncheon yesterday at BMA House.

Second Wednesday Luncheon Club

The Second Wednesday Luncheon Club held a luncheon yesterday at a reception at the Commonwealth Institute yesterday to mark Kenya's eleventh anniversary of independence (December 12).

Overseas Bankers Club

A reception was held at the Overseas Bankers Club, London, yesterday for members to meet their new president, Sir Eric Faulkner, chairman of Loyds Bank Ltd.

Marriages

Hon V. J. R. Baring and Miss L. G. Baring The marriage took place at St Paul's Knightsbridge, yesterday, of the Hon Viscount John Rowland Baring, younger son of the Earl and Countess of Cromer...

Harpur brasses restoration plea

An appeal has been launched by former pupils of the Bedford schools to restore the tomb and brasses of Sir William Harpur, who endowed the schools in 1566.

Latest wills

Mr Charles James Glasville, of Wiltshire, Hampshire, steel manufacturer, left £115,791 net (duty paid, £19,169). After personal bequests he left the residue equally among his wife, Miss Margaret, and his two sons, Mr and Mrs Bernard.

Correction

Justin Crane, of John D. Wood Company, who attended the memorial service for Mr Dudley Delevingne on December 4, was not representing Lazard Brothers and Company Ltd as stated on December 5.

Fortcoming marriages

Mr W. T. Addison and Miss J. E. Harkness The engagement is announced between William Timothy, only son of Mr and Mrs W. R. L. Addison of Epsom, Surrey, and Jane Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Harkness, of Hastings, Surrey.

Mr R. D. Hynle and Miss B. A. Barendell

The engagement is announced between Russell, son of Mr and Mrs J. V. Hoyle, of Westmead, Eton Road, Purley, Surrey, and Elaine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. B. Barendell, of St Nicholas, The Warren, East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr C. F. Jackson and Miss M. P. Jordan

The engagement is announced of Colin Francis, only son of Mr and Mrs C. M. H. Jackson, of The Grange, Priesthorpe Road, Farnley, York, and Miss M. P. Jordan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Jordan, 115 Birks Road, Cleator Moor, Cumbria.

Mr L. L. Jefferson and Miss E. R. Hunt

The engagement is announced between Leonard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs L. R. Jefferson, of Withborough Green, Sussex, and Elizabeth Rebecca, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. I. P. Hunt, of Bosham, Sussex.

Mr G. Morell Smith and Miss C. Evans

The engagement is announced between Graham Charles Morell, younger son of the Rev Canon and Mrs Philip Morell Smith, of Farnham, Surrey, and Carys, daughter of Mrs F. R. Evans, of Llandafon, Isle of Anglesey, and the late Mr F. R. Evans.

Mr B. R. Perry and Miss J. R. Woodward

The engagement is announced between Brian Richard, youngest son of the late Mr J. Philip Perry and Mrs Barbara Perry, of Ropley Hall, Stafford, and Miss J. R. Woodward, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs P. R. E. Woodward, of Hop- Court, Cloubyrth Mortimer, Shropshire.

Mr J. V. Smith and Miss V. C. James

The engagement is announced between John Victor, son of William Smith, and the late Ivy Smith, of Kemring, Kent, and Nancy Veronica, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. V. James, of Shortlands, Kent.

Mr A. A. Wilson and Miss M. P. Hawkey

The engagement is announced between Alan, only son of Mr and Mrs A. C. Wilson, of London, and Miss M. P. Hawkey, only daughter of Mrs Ron Hawkey, of Hove, Sussex.

Mr L. Woodford and Miss R. M. E. Scaramanza

The engagement is announced between Leonard Woodford, of Hampshire, and Rosalind Mary Elise Scaramanza, of the Rectory, Abbots Ann, Hampshire.

Mr M. H. Worthington and Miss M. A. Mackintosh

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr Vice-Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Mackintosh, of Worthington, of Pear Tree House, Ship Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, and Miss M. A. Mackintosh, daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Mackintosh, of Widdowdale, Oldbury, Malinesbury, Wiltshire.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr M. H. Jackson-Lipkin to be her Majesty's Counsel for Hongkong.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 11: The Right Hon Harold Wilson, MP, Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, had an audience of the Queen this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Royal Society of Arts, this evening attended the Industrial Tullahoma Memorial Lecture given by Sir Owen Saunders. His Royal Highness was later present at a dinner given by the Reclamation Industries Council at the Ritz Hotel.

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Law Report December 11 1974

Solicitors' costs in divorce proceedings in county courts

Castillejo v Castillejo Before Mr Justice Payne, sitting with two assessors. An assessment by the taxing officer of costs incurred in matrimonial proceedings on behalf of a respondent was upheld by Mr Justice Payne.

His Lordship said that the court had reviewed on the application of a wife respondent in matrimonial proceedings, taxation by one of the taxing officers in the Family Division of her costs against the petitioner, her former husband.

The parties, married in 1953, in February, 1972, the husband had been granted a decree nisi under section 3(1)(b) of the Divorce Reform Act, 1969. There were no children. The deputy circuit judge made an agreed order for financial provision in favour of the wife.

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Family Division

Onus of proof on landlords

Roland House Gardens Ltd v Cravitz It was for landlords seeking an order for possession of a flat to prove that a tenant who had been in occupation for 18 years had, in breach of the lease, gone to the roof and thereupon erected a residential structure...

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Accepted accounting principle even if little used

Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd v Price Commission Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roskill and Sir John Pennycuik. The order for taxation on a solicitor and own client basis extended to all costs.

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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

ound falls again Saudi 'desire' for non-sterling deals confirmed

By Peter Hill. Criticism of the Government's offshore oil policies was made in London yesterday by Mr Jerry Maier, executive vice-president of the American-owned Conoco North Sea. He said that while there may not be any noticeable evidence of a decline in offshore activity, there were forces and indicators at work which reflected the actual mood of the industry. Earlier this year, he continued, there had been all the ingredients for a mammoth oil boom despite the high costs and the economic problems. But the boom had not gained the momentum expected. Speaking against the background of an announcement by BP that it had abandoned the second of two dry wells west of the Shetlands at a cost of £5.6m—Mr Maier said that raising inflation, late deliveries, the cost of borrowing money and uncertain government proposals on tax and participation had changed the oil industry's views. There should be no misconception as to the degree of concern which the oil industry felt about the future, he said. The legislation on participation and the petroleum revenue tax could have a more profound effect on the oil industry than anything else that had arisen since exploration began. Mr Maier, who was addressing a conference organized by The Financial Times, said that more time should be taken to make in-depth studies needed to ensure that the decisions taken this winter would prove to be of lasting benefit to Britain. "If the Government sees fit to re-write contracts entered into several years ago to fit today's economic climate, then industry similarly deserves assurances of favourable readjustments of terms if it is jeopardized by future changes that are disadvantageous to it," he added. Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Opposition spokesman on energy, also gave a warning that if the Government insisted on buying 51 per cent of American companies' North Sea interests below market value, there could be retaliation against British interests in America. It was left to Mr John Smith, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, to defend the Government's policies. He told the conference that participation was the distinctive theme of the Government's policy. That should hardly cause surprise because it is now a feature of oil policy by nearly all producer nations on a worldwide basis," he said. "Despite differences of political and social outlook, it has become almost standard practice." Rights of control: The right of the United Kingdom, through Parliament, to exercise full control over exploration, depletion, disposal and taxation of its own oil and gas resources would be one of the main considerations when the European Community energy ministers met in Brussels next week, said Lord Balogh, Minister of State at the Department of Energy, speaking in The Hague yesterday. OPEC aims, page 19

Gilts fall and shares plunge to 20-year low

By Our Financial Staff. London stock markets suffered further losses yesterday after confirmation that the switching by some American oil companies of payments from sterling to United States dollars had brought a further setback for sterling. There was increasing nervousness in the City ahead of today's announcement of the United Kingdom trade figures for last month, with some sources now predicting a deficit in the £550m-£600m range. Against this background, gilts lost up to 1/2 of a point, and equities plunged to a 20-year low. The FT index lost 4 1/2 per cent on the day, to close at 150.4, its lowest point since June 16, 1954—not allowing for devaluations, or for the fall in the value of money. Gilts edged lower, with extremely weak. Prices fell back in the last hour of trading on talk of heavy intervention in New York to defend sterling. But most stocks, particularly at the longer end, were already at all-time lows before this further decline set in. Yields on unlisted stocks are at record levels. The yield on Treasury 2 1/2 per cent was 17.85 per cent at the close and only a modest fall today would push it through the 18 per cent level. The yield on War Loan 3 1/2 per cent was 17.59 per cent and on Consols 2 1/2 per cent 17.49 per cent. The market feared that the Bank of England might be obliged to raise Minimum Lending Rate shortly to provide support for sterling. In the equity market, selling pressure remained relatively light, but nervousness increased as the continued slide in sterling was followed by increased selling of shares in London. The market was expected to come from continental sources. With the OPEC countries expected to meet today in Vienna, oil shares were unsupported, in spite of Wall Street's overnight rise. The miners' wage claim, together with the signs of strain in the motor industry, again undermined heavy engineering shares. There was a minor rally in late dealings which enabled ICI to close a net 2p off, at 116 after touching 115p earlier. But Hawker Siddeley were finally 12p off, with selling of the shares gathering pace in late dealings.

Inflation and state policies caused a setback to North Sea boom, US oil chief says

By Peter Hill. Criticism of the Government's offshore oil policies was made in London yesterday by Mr Jerry Maier, executive vice-president of the American-owned Conoco North Sea. He said that while there may not be any noticeable evidence of a decline in offshore activity, there were forces and indicators at work which reflected the actual mood of the industry. Earlier this year, he continued, there had been all the ingredients for a mammoth oil boom despite the high costs and the economic problems. But the boom had not gained the momentum expected. Speaking against the background of an announcement by BP that it had abandoned the second of two dry wells west of the Shetlands at a cost of £5.6m—Mr Maier said that raising inflation, late deliveries, the cost of borrowing money and uncertain government proposals on tax and participation had changed the oil industry's views. There should be no misconception as to the degree of concern which the oil industry felt about the future, he said. The legislation on participation and the petroleum revenue tax could have a more profound effect on the oil industry than anything else that had arisen since exploration began. Mr Maier, who was addressing a conference organized by The Financial Times, said that more time should be taken to make in-depth studies needed to ensure that the decisions taken this winter would prove to be of lasting benefit to Britain. "If the Government sees fit to re-write contracts entered into several years ago to fit today's economic climate, then industry similarly deserves assurances of favourable readjustments of terms if it is jeopardized by future changes that are disadvantageous to it," he added. Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Opposition spokesman on energy, also gave a warning that if the Government insisted on buying 51 per cent of American companies' North Sea interests below market value, there could be retaliation against British interests in America. It was left to Mr John Smith, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, to defend the Government's policies. He told the conference that participation was the distinctive theme of the Government's policy. That should hardly cause surprise because it is now a feature of oil policy by nearly all producer nations on a worldwide basis," he said. "Despite differences of political and social outlook, it has become almost standard practice." Rights of control: The right of the United Kingdom, through Parliament, to exercise full control over exploration, depletion, disposal and taxation of its own oil and gas resources would be one of the main considerations when the European Community energy ministers met in Brussels next week, said Lord Balogh, Minister of State at the Department of Energy, speaking in The Hague yesterday. OPEC aims, page 19

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£5.6m—Mr Maier said that raising inflation, late deliveries, the cost of borrowing money and uncertain government proposals on tax and participation had changed the oil industry's views. There should be no misconception as to the degree of concern which the oil industry felt about the future, he said. The legislation on participation and the petroleum revenue tax could have a more profound effect on the oil industry than anything else that had arisen since exploration began. Mr Maier, who was addressing a conference organized by The Financial Times, said that more time should be taken to make in-depth studies needed to ensure that the decisions taken this winter would prove to be of lasting benefit to Britain. "If the Government sees fit to re-write contracts entered into several years ago to fit today's economic climate, then industry similarly deserves assurances of favourable readjustments of terms if it is jeopardized by future changes that are disadvantageous to it," he added. Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Opposition spokesman on energy, also gave a warning that if the Government insisted on buying 51 per cent of American companies' North Sea interests below market value, there could be retaliation against British interests in America. It was left to Mr John Smith, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, to defend the Government's policies. He told the conference that participation was the distinctive theme of the Government's policy. That should hardly cause surprise because it is now a feature of oil policy by nearly all producer nations on a worldwide basis," he said. "Despite differences of political and social outlook, it has become almost standard practice." Rights of control: The right of the United Kingdom, through Parliament, to exercise full control over exploration, depletion, disposal and taxation of its own oil and gas resources would be one of the main considerations when the European Community energy ministers met in Brussels next week, said Lord Balogh, Minister of State at the Department of Energy, speaking in The Hague yesterday. OPEC aims, page 19

Engineering workers may seek £18 rise

By R. W. Shakespeare. Union leaders representing 2.5 million engineering workers will meet in York today to decide details of what is likely to be the biggest pay claim ever lodged in the industry. They will also discuss the mounting crisis in Britain's car plants which will, in turn, affect the jobs of hundreds of thousands of workers in the components firms. The National Executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions will draft the details of the new national claim which will be submitted to the Engineering Employers' Federation at the end of the year. The claim will cover workers in 5,000 different companies, many of them among the major suppliers of the motor industry, and it will be intended to take effect when the existing national agreement on wages and conditions runs out in March. The executive is likely to be under strong pressure from some unions, particularly the AUEW leadership, to put a firm figure on the pay demand. Some union leaders are understood to have in mind a new industry-wide skilled rate of £50 a week, which would mean an increase of £18 a week on the present level. The main impact right across the industry, where actual earnings now range from about £35 to £65 a week, would be on such things as overtime rates, holiday pay and bonus schemes related to hourly rates. The effect on all of these would mean a huge increase in the industry's annual wage costs at a time when a great many firms are already facing financial difficulties. Other elements in the new package of demands by the 19 engineering unions are likely to be a reduction in the working week, possibly from 40 to 35 hours, longer holidays, improved overtime rates, and equal pay for women workers. "The national negotiations which will open early in the new year will be led by Mr Hugh Scanlon of the AUEW, who is chairman of the confederation's engineering committee. Some of the more moderate union leaders on the confederation executive may well take the view that the new round of negotiations should begin on a much more flexible basis without any commitment to a firm figure." Business Diary, page 19

Shaikh takes seat on the Lonrho board

By Margaret Drummond. Lonrho, the controversial African trading conglomerate headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, will become the first United Kingdom public company with a shaikh on the board, following formal ratification of a £6.1m deal with Kuwaiti business interests at an extraordinary general meeting in London yesterday. More than two hundred curious shareholders gathered at the Grosvenor House Hotel to catch a glimpse of Shaikh Nasser Sabah al Ahmed, 25, the son-in-law of the ruler of Kuwait, who with the purchase of eight million Lonrho shares becomes the group's second largest shareholder and its main contact with the Middle East and Africa. Lord Duncan Sandys, Lonrho's chairman, told shareholders that the Arab States wished to take an active part in furthering economic development in Africa. Shaikh Nasser rightly believed that Lonrho, with its organization and experience, was an ideal vehicle for joint development projects. Lonrho itself would benefit from an active association with these powerful Kuwaiti interests. The money had not been earmarked for any specific projects. While the group was not short of cash, the injection of a further £6m would not do any harm. Despite these rather vague pronouncements, shareholders showed their enthusiasm for what they saw as a landmark move in the first petrodollar rights issue by voting heavily in favour. Lord Duncan Sandys's sentiments were echoed by Shaikh Nasser himself in a short address to his fellow-shareholders. During the time he had been a Lonrho shareholder, he said, he had been very impressed by the group's management both in head office and in the field. He therefore felt that this management could serve the dual purpose of employing additional funds productively to ensure a good rate of return and also assist in the further commercial developments of many African countries.



Lord Duncan Sandys, chairman of Lonrho (right) and Mr 'Tiny' Rowland, chief executive (left), accompany Shaikh Nasser Sabah al Ahmed to the group's extraordinary general meeting in London yesterday. After the meeting Shaikh Nasser, whose family controls the large Kuwait-based conglomerate Gulf International, said that he held modest stakes in a number of United Kingdom industrial companies, confessed to a shareholding in British Leyland and stated his intention of joining the Lonrho board. After Shaikh Nasser's address, Dr Khalil Osman, Gulf International's Sudanese managing director, who initiated the link up between Lonrho and the Kuwaiti interests, made a fierce attack on current attempts to recycle the so-called petrodollars. He declared that the Arab oil surplus meant that the Western nations had now to treat the underdeveloped nations as part of the world economy and find ways of funneling petrodollars into developing the infrastructures of emerging states.

Leyland sets deadline for Spanish plant sale

British Leyland has delivered an ultimatum to the Spanish Government telling it that approval for the sale of its Spanish plant must be given or the responsibility for the continued employment of its 4,500 workers will be passed on to the Spanish Government. In a letter to Señor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Spanish premier, Mr John Barber, British Leyland's managing director, has made it clear that the company wants a decision on the plant's future before Christmas. Mr Barber spent last weekend in Spain discussing the situation with Señor Alfredo Santos Blanco, the Minister for Industry. No official statement was issued after the meeting. British Leyland wants to sell its 98 per cent holding in the Auchi plant near Pamplona to General Motors for £27.5m. The workforce at the plant have given their backing to Leyland's proposal, but the Spanish Government has delayed giving permission for the deal to go through. The Spanish Government is believed to prefer the plant going to a consortium of local manufacturers made up of Seat, Fasa-Renault and Citroën, but the price the consortium is prepared to pay is nearer £20m. In his letter, Mr Barber has told the Spanish premier that Leyland is not prepared to go on financing Auchi while negotiations take place. He has said that Leyland is prepared to hand over to him its responsibilities concerning the 4,500 workers at the plant. In addition Mr Barber has made it clear that British Leyland considers the Spanish Government to blame for the current situation because of its delay in deciding whether General Motors can buy the plant. British Leyland's losses at Auchi last year are estimated at £44m and it is anxious to sell the plant to ease its serious cash situation.

Government rejects R-R settlement criticism

By Our Financial Staff. A 6p fall to 46p in General Electric Company's share price yesterday reflected stock market disappointment with the electrical group's interim figures. Profits turned out to be £71m after six months, against some expectations of £75m. Nevertheless, GEC's profit was nearly 5 per cent higher on sales 15 1/2 per cent up at £605.5m. Once again, the company's substantial cash resources helped; interest and investment income moved up from £3.8m to £4.4m. This was probably the main factor which helped fill the profits gap caused by a sharp downturn in consumer product earnings. Financial Editor, page 19

GEC profits fail to cheer market

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Commonwealth producers seek double sugar price

By Hugh Clayton. Commonwealth countries will tell the British Government today that they want almost double the present price for their sugar. They would not say last night exactly what price they wanted for the 1.4 million tons for which the EEC has guaranteed access. But Mr Percival Patterson, Jamaican minister for foreign trade and spokesman for 18 cane producing countries said in London last night: "It is a question of 1.4 million tons at a good price or of none at a bad price." He said that Jamaica had just concluded a long term sugar deal with Iran. This would take account of world price changes and would be "subject to the general principles of indexation." There again he would not reveal the exact price, but he agreed that it was close to the present free market price of more than £450 a ton. "I think this provides a very useful precedent," he said. Mr Patterson and other ministers will meet Mr Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, today.

Littlewoods places big computer order

A contract described as one of the largest computer orders ever made in the United Kingdom has been placed by the Littlewoods Organization to develop its mail order and chain-store computer systems. The order has been won by Honeywell Information Systems. The computers have been ordered by Littlewoods to develop the on-line mail order entry and accounting systems.

Take over Panel adjourns Miss Penny Brahms' case

Peter Wainwright. After adjourning former model Miss Penny Brahms, who controls Land and General Developments, the property company, to enfranchise the up's voteless shareholders I appoint three independent directors, the Take-Over Panel yesterday again adjourned the case. Miss Brahms, who is now married to Mr "Dandy" Kim Waterfield and who is in control of Land & G through a trust of which Mr Clive Phelan, yesterday visited the Panel for the second time in six weeks. Afterwards the Panel issued a statement affirming that the remaining directors of Land & G were anxious to comply with the Panel orders, and to find independent directors to give the majority of L & G shareholders. The Panel said it "recognizes at the directors of Land & G's face difficulties in finding volunteers to act on the Panel. One of these difficulties is the fact that the Department of Trade has appointed inspec-

Price body loses cement appeal

An appeal by the Price Commission against a decision of the High Court on cement pricing was rejected by the Appeal Court yesterday. Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers started proceedings when the commission reduced its application for a 16.75 per cent increase to 13.9 per cent. The company said yesterday it had probably lost more than £1m to date by its failure to get the full increase. Financial Editor, page 19

How the markets moved

Table with columns: Rises, Falls, THE POUND, and Commodities. Includes data for various stocks and currencies.

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Steel billets shortage brings request for import duty exemption

By Peter Hill

A request for import duty to be exempted on high carbon steel billets for the whole of next year is being considered by the Government.

The application, made at a time of softening demand for steel in many sectors, reflects the acute shortage of billets experienced by re-rollers largely because of the British Steel Corporation's inability to meet demand after unofficial disputes at main plants and a shortage of raw materials earlier this year.

It is understood the application was made by the British Independent Steel Producers Association and, if approved, would be an extension of an already existing exemption. The BSC is not against an extension in import duty exemption until the end of March next year, but would want the situation reviewed then.

The current shortage is believed to have forced some re-rollers to operate only four days a week and one or two companies have placed orders with European suppliers where prices, although still higher than British prices, have fallen markedly in recent weeks.

According to the authoritative

Bonn talks opened on reflating economy

By David Blake

A two day session of talks on the shape of the country's expected reflation package was opened by the West German cabinet yesterday. Details of the measures to boost domestic demand and to combat rising unemployment are expected to be announced tomorrow.

Any uncertainty about whether the Germans would reflate was dispelled in Paris earlier this week by Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor. He stressed the need for those countries which are in a strong position to reflate to prevent the world sliding into deep recession and possibly even a stagflation this winter. With over a million workers expected to be out of a job in the coming months there are strong domestic pressures on Bonn to reflate.

These pressures have been reinforced in the talks which Chancellor Schmidt has been holding with leaders of other countries in the Community and with the United States.

Apart from any altruistic interest in the wellbeing of other countries, the Germans are concerned that any worsening of the world situation could lead to a rash of protectionism in other industrialized countries.

The most likely measures, according to Bonn reports, would involve injecting something like 1,500m Deutsche marks (about £263m) from contingency reserves, and the payment of 5 per cent or 7 1/2 per cent bonuses for investment in capital goods.

These measures, by concentrating on capital investment, would be in line with the greater concentration on investment which is seen as necessary as a result of the switch of wealth away from the west towards the Arab oil producers.

Nationwide's survey finds 70 pc of home buyers are under 30

By Margaret Stone

Seven out of ten of today's homebuyers are under 30 and almost half of them are first-time buyers, according to a survey, published yesterday by the Nationwide Building Society.

The survey carried out during the period July-September this year covered approximately 7 per cent of mortgages granted by all building societies during that period.

The homes bought by first-time buyers were at the lower end of the market: over three-quarters bought houses costing less than £11,000.

Despite the squeeze on mortgages, more than 60 per cent of these buyers obtained loans with a deposit of less than £1,000. This contrasts sharply with the position of second-time buyers where the average deposit was £5,000.

The ability of a young couple to buy a house is becoming more and more dependent upon the income of the wife. The survey confirms that there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of borrowers with working wives whose incomes are taken into account when granting a mortgage.

Repayment for normal mortgages, before tax relief, represented 24.4 per cent of family income for first-time buyers compared with 21.6 per cent for previous owner occupiers.

Italian mission aims to clinch Iran deal

From John Earle

Rome, Dec 11

Signor Raffaele Girotti, chairman of the Italian state-owned Hydrocarbons Corporation ENI, left today for Tehran to conclude a wide-ranging agreement for Iranian participation in part of ENI's refining and distribution operations, in exchange for long-term supplies of crude oil.

According to Italian sources, the outline of an agreement has been reached after several months negotiations, but some serious obstacles still remain such as the price of the Iranian crude oil, in the supplied over a period of probably 20 years.

On this hinges the size of the Iranian participation in the Industria Italiana Petroli, the state-owned refinery which ENI bought from Shell a year ago and possibly also in certain ENI activities outside Italy.

Signor Girotti's visit at overcoming these obstacles. His departure came after a meeting here yesterday of ENI's executive management committee. He is accompanied by Signor Lorenzo Roasio, managing director of ENI's petroleum subsidiary, AGIP, and by Signor Pascale Landolfi, head of ENI's foreign operations.

Another aspect of the discussions between ENI and the Iranians is understood to be a project for the supply of liquefied gas by ship once the Suez Canal is reopened.

Italian sources emphasize that the negotiations are quite separate from the official visit which President Giovanni Leone is paying in Tehran next week, though if they go well it may be possible to initial the agreement while the President is there.

Plan to simplify local authority borrowing

Standardization and simplification of the system through which local authorities borrow money are urged in a report by Butler Till, a prominent money broker.

The report, which has been mainly written by Sir Harry Page, now a consultant to Butler Till, calls for the consolidation of all non-negotiable borrowings by local authorities into one instrument.

This would result in the replacement of the mortgage, the bond and the temporary or deposit receipt by a loan acknowledgement.

The report argues that the different types of non-negotiable instrument are identical in terms of ranking and financial security, and should therefore be issued under a common heading.

Negotiable paper, it says, should be standardized into three categories. These are the bill, with a life of less than one year and normally issued in bearer form; the bond, with a life of one to eight years; and the stock, with a life of more than eight years.

The report, entitled "Money Services for Local Authorities", is being circulated to more than 500 local authorities and to some 300 lenders.

Barclays issuing two 'currency cocktails'

By Christopher Wilkins

Two new currency "cocktails" have been introduced by Barclays Bank International aimed at minimizing the exchange rate risk for companies engaged in international trade.

The currency units are to be known as the B-Unit and the Commercial Euro. They are primarily being directed at companies involved in long-term contracts where normal forward cover in the foreign exchange market is not available.

The B-Unit incorporates five currencies each with equal weighting, the pound sterling, the Deutsche mark, the United States dollar, the French franc and the Swiss franc.

The Commercial Euro, which is being aimed mainly at trade between European countries, is comprised of nine European currencies, weighted according

to each country's GNP and balance of trade. It differs from the Euro, as introduced a year ago by N. M. Rothschild, in that where two-tier exchange rates exist, the commercial rates are used for international trade and transport.

The B-Unit is designed as a flexible formula which can be adapted to particular trading situations. Other currencies can be substituted for those in the basic formula, or the existing currencies can be given different weighting to reflect the needs of particular circumstances.

As with other currency cocktails which have preceded the two new units, such as the unit of account and the European currency unit, the objective is to offer international traders a settlement vehicle which diffuses the effect of exchange rate fluctuations.

Paracetamol exemption call

An application has been received by the Department of Trade for the temporary exemption from import duty of the widely-used analgesic paracetamol. The department does not disclose the names of applicants for exemption orders, but if sanctioned the exemption would operate for a year.

There is a world shortage of paracetamol. This has been aggravated in the United Kingdom by the controversy over medicines containing phenacetin, another pain-killer.

Since September 1 these have been restricted to prescription sales only. This follows an accumulation of evidence over many years that when used regularly for long periods, phenacetin may damage the kidneys.

World prices of paracetamol are significantly higher than those in the United Kingdom.

£2.7m detergent plant investment

Investment of £2.7m in new production facilities for sodium tripolyphosphate was announced yesterday by Albright & Wilson, one of the world's largest producers of detergent phosphates.

The company said that new capacity would be installed at its Marchon division site at Whitehaven, Cumbria, to produce 85,000 tonnes annually, though if they go well it may be possible to increase to about 50 per cent on existing levels, with completion of the plant scheduled for the middle of 1976.

Mr John Willis, managing director of the company's Marchon division, said last night that the latest investment reflected the company's intention to maintain its strong world position in detergent phosphates.

Social contract must be changed, CBI head says

By Malcolm Brown

Mr Ralph Batesman, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said in Cardiff yesterday that the most important task of 1975 must be to "get hold of inflation by the neck and strangle it".

A central feature of this must be to renegotiate the social contract, Mr Batesman told industrialists.

"Nobody would envy any ministers the task of drawing up effective counter-inflation policies," he continued. "Certainly the CBI, like everybody else, finds it much easier to identify the problems than to solve them."

"But one thing is embarrassingly obvious: the Government must renegotiate its social contract."

"In my opinion, this Government's general strategy is dazed and injured by our protracted first and foremost to the

protection of jobs; the Government and the trade unions see unemployment and not inflation as "public enemy number one."

"If I am right, then we are indeed facing a major crisis, because until we develop an antidote to the disease of inflation, there is no hope of curing the unpleasant and unacceptable symptoms of the illness, such as unemployment."

Earlier, Mr Batesman had issued a warning against the dangers to democracy of what he estimated would be 20 per cent or more inflation next year.

"There are extremists, on the Left especially but also on the Right, who like packs of hyenas, will laugh at our troubles and scavenge for easy pickings among those most dazed and injured by our protracted

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Finance Bill's breach of Treasury undertaking on Capital Transfer Tax

From Mr William Goodhart

Sir, In the spring Budget debate the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced that any gift made between March 26, 1974, and a date to be fixed in the second Finance Bill would not be chargeable to Capital Transfer Tax if it would have been exempt from estate duty if the donor had died on the day after the gift was made. This undertaking was repeated in the White Paper on the Capital Transfer Tax published in August.

In one important respect the Finance Bill published today fails to give effect to the Chief Secretary's undertaking. Under the old estate duty rules, gifts (including settled gifts) of property outside the United Kingdom made by individuals domiciled outside the United Kingdom would have been exempt from estate duty if the donor had died on the following day. Any such gift made after March 26, would accordingly have been unequivocally within the Chief Secretary's undertaking.

However, clause 40 of the Finance Bill gives an extended definition of "domicile", which appears to operate retrospectively. This means that individuals who are within the extended definition of domicile

Propagand concerning referendum

From Professor C. J. Hugh

Sir, Mr Kinsman, in your news News (November asserts confidently that the referendum, used for the cess of democratic decision the plural referenda beca is a gerundive meaning thing meet to be referred. The premise is wrong. word came into our lang from the old Swiss Confed and its modern successors, short for *referendum*, ing "for carrying back" denotes the taking back mandatory instructions proposal from the confeder Diet to the sovereign or community, of each me

By analogy it also refe all taking back of prog (made by a represent assembly) to the sove people. It is a gerund (i got it the right way round means "referring". In l ad referendum would change into the plural if c matters were referred, b the word has become Er then the plural is referen Similarly one does not tne wishes in the th educated of propos because propaganda, ton gerund. The Oxford dicior back me up here.

Yours, etc.

C. J. HUGHES, Cedar Lodge, Saddington, Leicestershire

Alarming features of eminent thought on social contract

From Mr A. L. King

Sir, There are certain of your contributors who can no longer surprise me by the remarkable doctrines which they are capable of producing, but Mr Peter Jay, for whom I have considerable respect, is not one of them. This made it all the more alarming to observe two or three incidental features of his article "One small phrase in the social contract—one giant leap for inflation", which must surely leave any thinking reader uneasy in the extreme.

First, on the definition of the contract itself, the recent exchange of correspondence between Mr James Prior and Mr Len Murray has shown, to say the least, that there is a point to be made; yet we find Mr Jay writing: "Indeed, the social contract itself, as set out in the TUC's Supplementary Report A . . . And lower down in relation to the paragraph which has apparently caused all the trouble: "It can hardly be what the TUC drafts men intended, nor what the Treasury understood . . ."

When writing these phrases, were the hairs on the back of Mr Jay's neck entirely relaxed in the light of his bland acceptance of the substitution of one pressure group for the constitutional machine of government?

Secondly, his genuine surprise—and by implication that of the TUC—at the interpretation which is developing of the offending paragraph can surely not have been shared by many others experienced in trade union affairs, who will have known exactly what to expect.

Thirdly, how appallingly revealing, in a so-called contract of this character, is Mr Jay's reservations about the CBI—" . . . to be included as a contracting party, provided that it does not make conditions outside the specific field of pay restraint and directly related macro-economic questions".

We were told at a museum during the general election that the social contract was with all the people and covered every aspect of government—economic, social and even in some respects foreign policy.

The sort of criteria in this context which a discerning and experienced writer like Mr Jay seems prepared to accept fill one with more misgivings almost than inflation itself.

Yours faithfully,

A. L. KING, Highlands, 50 Wagoo Road, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Bank efficiency

From Dr R. J. Bridgewater

Sir, Recent correspondence referred to the functions of clearing banks and assistant small businesses.

Whilst it is true that more should be done for businesses, which alone put this country back on its again, I would like to critic the banking system for its ent inability to achieve a efficiency in assessment viable projects.

My own personal knowledge shows that I have financed some business which at worst go bankrupt at best show only a small r on capital, whilst others apparently better records starved of capital. (I won't mention exports since even Government pleas to the banks little effect here.)

At a time when capital short supply I feel that banks should adopt a responsible attitude to let and give preference to parties with good returns placement, exports and volumes.

Yours faithfully,

R. J. BRIDGEWATER, Maoaglog Director, Maybridge Chemical Co L, Trevillee, Tintagel, Cornwall, December 9.

HARDY

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INTERIM REPORT

The Unaudited Group Results for the half year are as follows:

	28 weeks to 10th Aug. 1974	28 weeks to 11th Aug. 1973	Year to 26th Jan. 1974
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	12,503	14,765	28,484
Trading Surplus	674	1,932	3,954
Amortisation & Depreciation	174	170	326
Interest Payable	272	210	440
Trading Profit	228	1,552	3,188
(Decrease) Increase in Reserves for Deferred Profit and Unearned Charges	(786)	10	459
Net Profit before Taxation	1,014	1,542	2,729
Taxation at 50% (Comparatives at 48%)	507	745	1,409
Net Profit after Taxation	507	797	1,320
Dividends to Outside Preference Shareholders	7	7	14
Net Profit attributable to Holding Company	500	790	1,306
Dividends to Preference Shareholders	2	2	4
Earnings	498	788	1,302
Earnings per Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary	2.2p	3.4p	5.7p
Dividends on Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary Interim at 1.155p per share (1.155p)	266	266	266
Final at 1.64p per share	—	—	384
Stocks	2,793	2,887	3,047
Debtors on Hire Purchase Agreements and Amounts due from Customers	14,759	16,018	17,424
Reserves for Deferred Profit and Unearned Charges	4,354	4,650	5,140
Debtenture Stock and Mortgages	2,016	2,022	2,019
Bank Overdraft	1,567	2,673	4,002

In common with other retailers, turnover and profits were adversely affected by national conditions at the beginning of the year. However, measures were taken to meet this situation with the result that trading has now improved and performance in the second half of this year is expected to equal that in the same period last year. Subject to unforeseen circumstances, the total dividend should be no less than last year and adequately covered.

An interim dividend of 1.155p per share will be paid on the 24th January 1975 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 27th December 1974.

Fed laws could involve big changes in US bank system

From Frank Vogel

Washington, Dec 11

Legislative proposals that will lead to drastic changes in the United States banking system are now being finalized by the Federal Reserve Board, but they have to be accepted by the Congress.

Proposals to regulate the branches, subsidiaries and affiliates of foreign banks here were announced by the Fed last week, but these should be seen as a part of the total reform package that the Fed is developing.

Such reforms will give the Fed much greater powers over American banks and reduce the powers held by the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

To some extent the reform plan has already been given increasing urgency by Fed governors due to the collapse of the United States national bank of San Diego and the Franklin National Bank of New York.

The first insight into what the Fed is planning was revealed in a speech by the Institutional Investors Institute by Mr John Sheeha, of the Fed's board of governors. He favours a centralized Federal Bank regulatory structure that will give the Fed's board in Washington firm control over all aspects of monetary policy and over regulation and supervision of the entire United States banking industry.

At the moment the Fed has the right only to examine fully the 1,000 state chartered banks that are also Fed members, while the Comptroller of the Currency is the chief supervisor of the 5,000 national registered banks and the FDIC is the prime regulator of 8,000 state banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System.

Mr Sheeha pointed out that one consequence of this divided power of the banks was the great delay, lasting five months, in bringing the Franklin situation to a conclusion.

He said: "At a minimum, I propose that when a problem bank becomes a borrower from the Fed's discount window that the Fed immediately—by law—becomes the primary regulator responsible for working out a solution."

He said the Fed had the responsibility to be lender of last resort to all banks, but it did not have the power to control all banks and this untenable situation should be resolved by incorporating the powers of the FDIC and the Comptroller's office into the Fed system.

The reforming plans go far beyond this area, however. A number of influential Fed board members would like to see legislation that directly ties a bank's asset and liability growth to growth in a bank's basic capital, as a means of ensuring that banks pursue responsible expansion policies.

Some members, including Mr Sheeha, want the Fed to have far greater powers over bank holding companies.

Savings 'must not hit tourism'

Fuel and roading cuts must not be allowed to affect the tourist trade, MPs have been warned by Sir Mark Henig, chairman of the English Tourist Board.

"Unlike the commuter, the holidaymaker usually has a full car and can usually justify its use against the charges of competing transport," he told the all-party roads study group.

"It would indeed be a serious matter and a very undesirable by-product of our energy restrictions if local economies were to lose their tourist trade

INTERIM STATEMENT

PHOENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT

ESTIMATED RESULTS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 1974

The following are the estimated and unaudited results of the Phoenix group of companies for the nine months ended 30th September 1974 with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in 1973 and actual results for the full year 1973:

	9 months to 30.9.74 £'000	9 months to 30.9.73 £'000	Year 1973 £'000
Net premium written:			
Fire, accident, marine and aviation	130,325	119,029	161,889
Investment income	11,048	8,359	12,347
Underwriting profit:			
Fire, accident, marine and aviation	-2,805	2,593	2,448
Long-term	1,043	944	1,391
	9,286	11,896	16,186
Less expenses not charged to other accounts	517	520	516
Profit before tax	8,769	11,376	15,870
Less tax	3,104	3,348	5,747
Less minority interests	5,665	8,028	9,923
Net profit	4,460	6,014	8,593
Earnings per share	10.90p	17.20p	21.36p

Note: Overseas currency transactions have been converted at rates of exchange appropriate to the periods in question. In converting US dollar transactions for the 9 months to 30th September 1974 a rate of \$2.33 has been used compared with a rate of \$2.41 for the 9 months to 30th September 1973 and \$2.32 for the year 1973.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Investment income has increased by 32% from £8.4m to £11m. After taking account of underwriting losses of £2.8m (1973 profit £2.8m) profits before tax and minorities are £8.8m compared with £11.4m for the corresponding period in 1973.

In the United Kingdom with the uncertainty as to future rates of inflation it has been considered prudent further to strengthen outstanding claims reserves to reflect the anticipated cost of eventual settlements. The home fire and accident underwriting loss is £0.7m.

In the United States the results in the early part of the year were affected by tornadoes. There is evidence of some deterioration in claims experience in the third quarter. The fire and accident loss at 30th September amounts to £1.25m.

Measures to improve the quality of the account in Canada have brought a reduction in premium income. Underwriting shows a modest improvement over the corresponding position in 1973.

In Australia additional transfers to outstanding claims reserves have contributed to the underwriting loss of £1.5m.

In other parts of the world trading results have been good. Premium growth has been affected by currency fluctuations.

LONG-TERM BUSINESS

New business figures are as follows:

	9 months to 30.9.74 £m	9 months to 30.9.73 £m	Year 1973 £m
New aims assured	511	462	678
New annuities per annum	3.9	3.5	5.4
New annual premiums	5.7	5.8	8.8
New single premiums	1.8	10.4	11.4

11th December 1974

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ELEVEN NEW STORES IN 1974

21% RISE IN KWIK SAVE PROFITS

EXPANSION OF TRADING AREA

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement Results for the financial year ended 31st August 1974 show turnover of £40,547,000 compared with £27,899,000 for the previous year, an increase of 45.33%. Net profit before tax was £2,705,692 (1973: £2,238,398) an increase of 21%.

During the year the group opened eleven new stores, making a total of 55 stores at the year end with a total gross area of 860,000 sq ft (1973 634,000 sq ft). During the current year five stores have already opened and it is hoped to open at least ten further stores.

The group's second warehouse at Ashton-in-Makerfield was opened in October 1973. This has operated most successfully. It has enabled us to expand our trading area to include the Potteries and the Midlands.

The current economic situation has meant that the housewife has had to become far more price conscious and our policy of permanent discount prices has enabled us to increase our market share, and the Board are very confident that this penetration will continue in the current year.

Five Year Record (£000's)	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
Turnover	40,547	27,899	22,444	15,030	11,076
Profit before Taxation	2,706	2,238	1,604	1,023	643
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	3,259	2,550	1,898	1,282	917

KWIK SAVE DISCOUNT GROUP LIMITED

Copies of the report and accounts available from the Company Secretary, Warren Drive, Prestatyn, Clwyd.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Bright opening from D Doncaster and still going strong

Daniel Doncaster, the Sheffield-based metal forger in which Johnson & Firth Brown holds an 11.5 per cent stake, yesterday announced excellent results for the 28 weeks to mid-October. Pre-tax profits in fact were more than double those for the corresponding period (excluding the Rolls-Royce adjustment), at £1.13m as against £541,000. Turnover advanced by 40.3 per cent to £14.97m, and partly in consequence of increased working capital requirements related to this higher level of activity, interest charges soared from £60,000 to £215,000.

However, the stock appreciation provisions of the budget are worth some £767,000 in tax deferral, and following the further strengthening of financial controls, the chairman believes the group has sufficient facilities for normal trading. Meanwhile the interim dividend has been raised by the maximum allowed for the year, to 1.74p gross. The board's forecast for the full year is "good", and market sources indicate that this means pre-tax profits in excess of the 1973 record of £1.98m, as against last year's £1.61m.

Caravans Int expects another opening loss

A second half turn-around of just over £1m by Caravans International brought little response from the stock market yesterday and the shares closed a point easier at 7 1/2p. And because of what is described by the company as a disappointing result, coupled with the need to cut costs and an increase in short-term borrowings, the final dividend is omitted leaving the total at 1.04p compared with 7p.

The company says that to reduce overhead costs the production of touring caravans is being concentrated in two of the three Newmarket factories and that of motor, residential and static holiday units within one of the two factories at Parkstone. £2.46m to £349,000 out of sales slightly lower at £36.6m (£37.1m). No forecast is made for the current term but it is likely there will be a trading loss over the first six months, as was the case last time. The company says that to reduce overhead costs the production of touring caravans is being concentrated in two of the three Newmarket factories and that of motor, residential and static holiday units within one of the two factories at Parkstone.

Seafield Gentex record

Following the dismal results of 1971-72 and last year's recovery to more normal profit levels, Seafield Gentex, one of the largest Irish textile groups, have turned in profits and sales both showing substantial gains to record figures for 1973-74. Well ahead of half-time, profits at the pre-tax level for the full term to September 30 show a 150 per cent gain from £416,000

to £1,099m from sales 55 per cent ahead from £11.8m to £18.3m. The second half, in spite of the incidence of spring and summer holidays, produced the biggest contribution. The final dividend, which last year was stepped up after being cut back to conserve cash in 1971-72, is being raised again to 3.12p from 2.5p making the year's total 5p against 3.75p.

Norwest Holst 28 pc downturn

Although half-time profits of Norwest Holst, the Lancashire-based civil engineering and building contractors, show a 28 per cent downturn, before interest and special items, Mr D. R. LeMara, chairman, says he does not expect at this time any significant change in earnings. Trading in property continues to be profitable but at a reduced rate.

Group pre-tax profits for the half-year to September 30 were returned at £455,000 against £1.14m on turnover at a peak halfway level at £29m against £26m. Interest charges leapt from £395,000 to £654,000, but tax is reduced from £398,000 to £277,000. After minority interest and extraordinary items the attributable emerges at £184,000 compared with £496,000, which lowered earnings per share to 1.94p from 5.6p and, fully diluted, to 2.07p against 4.5p. None the less the interim dividend is raised slightly from 1.25p to 1.3p.

Better term for Kitson's

Falling share price seem to be behind a Pilkington Brothers mended offer terms. Insulation. Shareholders now offered seven shares, plus 105p cash. 15 Kitson's shares have new cash element. Current value of the 37.5p a share to 31 compares with the share when it was first October, and Kitso price of 45p before Pilkington's shares worth 95p (down 4p compared with 160p offer was first made

Interim loss at Coated Metals

The poor interim result expected at Coated Metals (Holdings) has materialized. There was no significant improvement in United Kingdom demand after the three-day week, and while export sales have been running at a high level, turnover dipped from £3m to £2.9m. However, shareholders will receive an interim 1.5p against 5.5p gross.

Court Cate debts of £81

Court Line Catering subsidiary of the collar and shipping group, of almost £8m, credited at a meeting in Mr Norman Saddle Receiver, said the priced preferential £22,000, a debenture, audited unsecured £181,500. He said the year and its validity to be decided. But found to be valid it be nothing for unsecured.

A taxable profit of £327,000 has turned into a loss of £32,000 which reflects a continued erosion of margins coupled with competition at artificially low prices in certain markets. Also the group has had difficulty obtaining steel on schedule which caused plant stoppages.

Slowdown at York Trailer

Introducing a third-quarter statement for the first time York Trailer indicates that second-half profits will be slower than in the first six months, when growth was about 15 per cent.

Giltspur acquisition

Giltspur Expo Industries has acquired the hire stock, contracts, name and other assets of Paul Killewald KG for about £403,000 cash. Additional working capital and capital expenditure of £323,000 will also be supplied making a total investment by Giltspur of some £725,000. Killewald is the largest company in Germany supplying furniture and carpets on rental to exhibitors at trade shows, etc. Its operations are complementary to Giltspur's existing facilities in Germany.

Christie's purchase

Christie's are expanding business by taking long-established but Debenham & Coe, Kensington, London, over. The new firm known as Christie's Singapore and will open the beginning of absorb the increasing business brought in Christie's salesrooms James's. No financial disclosed.

Wace downturn

Wace Group, printing plate suppliers, suffered badly from the three-day week with losses incurred by its London-based companies and a general downturn in demand. As such, profits to the half to June 30 fell from £83,000 to £32,000 from sales of £723,000 (£752,000). The dividend is cut from 0.85p to 0.59p. Redundancy costs in London

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LONDON & PROVING SHOP CENTRES (HOLDINGS) LTD.

Joint Managing Directors
Ronald Gerard and Bernard S. Berrick

Results for year ended 24th June, 1974

- * Net income increased to £204,000 before dev charges and taxation.
- * Dividend increased by maximum permitted 5%.
- * Gross assets £18.5 million.
- * Capital and reserves equivalent to 159p per share.
- * Medium and short term borrowings reduced October, 1974 from £4.2m to £2.7m, of which medium term. Unused bank facilities £2.4m.
- * 56,000 sq. ft. office development in Slough will be cc by end-1975.
- * Planning consents obtained for next phase of deve programme.
- * In spite of the anti-property legislation enacted six December, 1973, the unprecedented high interest-r the generally depressed economic conditions, the str the Group can now be appreciated in that we have let high quality portfolio, very low short term bor and only ooc major development under constructi

Report and accounts available from
The Secretary, 22 South Audley Street London, W1Y



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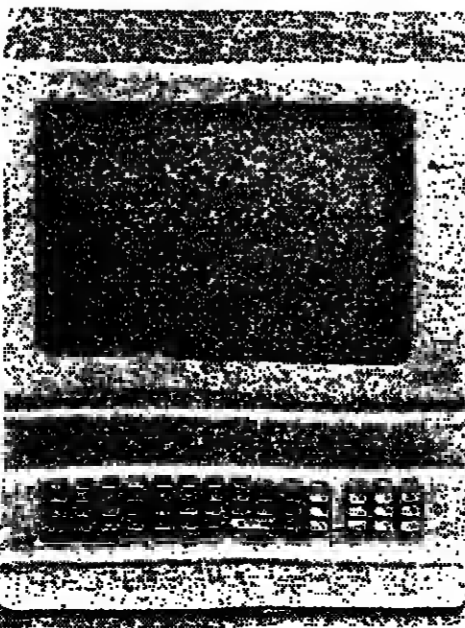
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By installing a small compatibility unit, Reuter-Ultronic Videomaster subscribers can now receive Reuter Monitor rates.

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REUTERS

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London. It is not an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any securities of Continental Can Company, Inc.



Continental Can Company, Inc.

(Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of the State of New York, United States of America)

SHARE CAPITAL

Authorized US \$50,000,000 in 50,000,000 shares of Common Stock of US \$1 par Value each

US\$15,000,000 in 150,000 shares of \$4.25 Cumulative Preferred Stock of no par value are authorised of which 150,000 shares with a stated value of US\$100 each issued. US\$3,000,000 in 3,000,000 shares of Junior Preferred Stock of US\$1 value each are authorised but unissued. 77,299 shares of Common Stock and 94,729 shares of \$4.25 Cumulative Preferred Stock of the above issued capital were in treasury by Continental Can Company, Inc. at 21st November 1974.

The Council of The Stock Exchange in London has admitted to the Official List all 29,392,530 shares of Common Stock of Continental Can Company, Inc. in issue at 21st November 1974. Particulars relating to Continental Can Company, Inc. are available in the statistical services of Extel Statistical Services Limited and Moody Services Limited, and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 31st December 1974 from:-

Kleinwort, Benson Limited
20 Fenchurch Street
London EC3P 3DB

Goldman Sachs International Cor
40 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 5DE

Fielding, Newson-Smith & Co.
Garrard House
31 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7DX

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Nervous bout ahead of trade figures

Continued slide in the pound, reflecting... nervousness ahead of disclosure of the United Kingdom trade figures...

"ditching" United Kingdom stocks... Oil shares suffered further and severe losses on confirmation that Saudi Arabia has insisted that this month's oil payments be made entirely in United States dollars...

Eurobond Prices (Midday indicators)

Table with columns for STRAIGHTS, NON-S BONDS, and CONVERTIBLES, listing various bond types and their prices.

Table listing various stocks and their prices, including companies like ICI, Unilever, and others.

COMPANY MEETING

NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITIES CORPORATION

The Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Company was held on December 11, 1974, in London.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Directors.

Gross revenue for the year was £706,632 which is an increase of £158,442 over the previous year.

After deducting management expenses, debenture interest and taxation there remains £370,074 available for ordinary shareholders which is equivalent to 2.12p per share compared with 1.74p per share last year.

During the course of the year it was decided to reduce further the level of the U.K. portfolio and thereby to create larger cash resources. Partially as a result of this policy the overseas proportion of the invested funds has increased to 58.4 per cent (51 per cent).

Compair second half recovery

After being 11 per cent down at the interim, profits at Compair, the compressed air equipment group, went ahead by 171 per cent in the second period.

Latest Dividends

Table listing dividends for various companies, including BICC, Baxco, and others, with columns for company name, dividend amount, and date.



New BICC Organisational Structure

BICC Board announces an important stage in the development of its top organisational structure.

From 1st January 1975 Group operations will be carried out through four GROUP Companies, three of them new and now being formed: BICC Cables Limited, BICC Industrial Products Limited, and BICC International Limited, and one of them existing - Balfour Beatty & Co. Limited.

These four Group Companies will operate in accordance with a policy determined by the Board of the Parent Company; the Chief Executive's Committee. BICC will continue to develop corporate strategy for Parent Board approval and monitor its execution once approved. The membership of the Board is not altered by these changes although the responsibilities of some individual Directors are altered.

Mr. G. De Ville, Director of BICC Limited, will be Director, General and Management Services, continue to be responsible for the Chief Executive, and will be on the Boards of all four Group Companies.

Mr. J. A. McCleery will deputise for him as Chairman of the Chief Executive's Committee.

Mr. D. H. Rooney, Director of BICC Limited, will be Director, General and Management Services, continue to be responsible for the Chief Executive, and will be on the Boards of all four Group Companies.

Mr. D. B. Rooney (Chairman and Managing Director) comprising the following Operating Companies:

Mr. D. A. Holland (Executive Director) comprising the following Operating Companies:

Mr. J. A. McCleery (Chairman and Managing Director) comprising the following Operating Companies:

These changes will involve a considerable degree of delegation of authority and will provide Senior Managers with experience in operating substantial parts of the Group's business.

THESE MEN KNOW... how to get things moving



These men - your Industrial Expansion Team, know there's a lot more to expansion than just choosing a factory. Take transport and communications, for instance.

Each Industrial Expansion Team specialises in its Area for Expansion, and so can tell you all about the transport network of the Area you choose.

And you'll find major air and sea ports to speed your exports to overseas markets. Whatever your transport needs, the Industrial Expansion Teams can find a location to meet them.

Headquarters, London, tel: 01-211 6486 (24-hour answer-service for booklet enquiries only - 01-834 2026)

"Sound progress... even in a difficult year"

Table comparing financial figures for 1973 and 1974, including Net Sums Assured, Group Premium Income, and Group Funds.

These figures include the results of Lifeguard Assurance Limited, Safeguard Assurance Limited, and since acquisition, those of Investment Annuity Life Assurance Limited.



Swan Court, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3AF



San Com



San Com



Stock Exchange Prices Gilts nervous

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Dec 23. Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.

FAST NEW ROADS & MODERN DOCKS

Main financial table with columns for various stock categories: COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, WEALTH AND FOREIGN, AUTHORITIES, IGON STOCKS, LAR STOCKS, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES, FINANCIAL TRUSTS, RUBBER, and MISCELLANEOUS. Includes sub-sections like 'INSURANCE' and 'INVESTMENT TRUSTS'.

Account for last changes in R. for details in R. etc. All prices are in pence unless otherwise stated. Prices are subject to change without notice. Distribution of special dividend in R. for details in R. etc. All prices are in pence unless otherwise stated. Prices are subject to change without notice.

and General Appointments

GENERAL

ENGINEERING and...

MARKET RESEARCH EXECUTIVES KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Company, which has grown more rapidly in the past 10 years...

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Intelligent people to help make arrangements for students to study in this country...

IDENT KEEPER

Red Cross

GRADUATE GIRLS

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL SUNDAY NEWSPAPER

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

TOP EDITOR

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

EDUCATED WOMAN

TELEPHONIST / RECEPTIONIST

GRADUATE T.E.S.L.

FRENCH SPEAKING

FRENCH SPEAKING

HOTEL AND CATERING

WELL EDUCATED YOUNG

RECEPTIONIST

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

International Car Rental Company requires an Administration Manager to be responsible for general office administration...

SECRETARIAL

MANAGEMENT opportunity for ambitious female with some experience in administration...

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY to Marketing Chief in advertising agency...

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY to Marketing Chief in advertising agency...

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SECRETARY to Marketing Chief in advertising agency...

SECRETARIAL

Secretary to Director

Hoechst is a major producer of synthetic fibres, in particular Trevira, for modern fashion and fabrics throughout the world.

SECRETARY

A highly competent German speaking Secretary is now required for the Chief Executive Director of the Fibres Division here in the U.K.

The successful applicant for this position should have first class shorthand and typing. However, these will not form the major part of her duties as a large number of secretarial responsibilities will be delegated to her.

An excellent starting salary will be offered, and a substantial annual bonus is paid in addition. Fringe benefits include four weeks' holiday, a contributory pension scheme and free membership of Private Patients Club.

Please apply, quoting reference 74/77, to: The Personnel Officer, Fibres Division, Hoechst UK Limited, Salisbury Road, Hounslow, Middlesex. Tel: 01-570 7712, ext. 3189

SECRETARY

Personable, well-educated career secretary (23-30) required to assist a busy partner in world-wide professional firm in the City (near Liverpool Street Station).

The position calls for initiative, good organising ability, common sense and complete discretion as well as immaculate shorthand and typing.

Excellent conditions of service offered, yearly salary review, and many fringe benefits, including 14.5% yearly bonus and contributory pension scheme. Please write fully in confidence to Box 0028 M. The Times.

PUBLISHING EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

An assistant with enthusiasm, capability and above all a strong sense of responsibility is urgently required by a major publishing house.

Good typing and shorthand and previous publishing experience are desirable.

Travel in the U.K. and abroad is included, as is current driving licence, few holidays, and a salary commensurate with experience.

For an application form and a list of agencies, please contact: The Personnel Officer, The Times, 1, Broad Street, London WC1X 9PL. Tel: 01-570 7712, ext. 3189

SECRETARY to the GENERAL MANAGER, PERSONNEL

INTERNATIONAL BANK

Applicants should be qualified, well educated and able to work in a professional environment.

The successful candidate will be required to assist the General Manager in all matters relating to personnel administration.

For an application form and a list of agencies, please contact: The Personnel Officer, The Times, 1, Broad Street, London WC1X 9PL. Tel: 01-570 7712, ext. 3189

SECRETARY

reputed with good shorthand/audiotape, able to cope with interesting secretarial and administrative duties in support of busy Executive in leading Trade Association, 2 mins. Piccadilly Tube.

Salary £2,800 to £3,000 p.a. plus 10% depending on experience and potential to fit the bill. Telephone Elisabeth Foulkes 01-437 0678, ext. 305.

SECRETARY/P.A. FOR INTERNATIONAL ART DEALER

Top salary plus bonus for mature professional Secretary, preferably over 40, able to work in a professional environment.

For an application form and a list of agencies, please contact: The Personnel Officer, The Times, 1, Broad Street, London WC1X 9PL. Tel: 01-570 7712, ext. 3189

SECRETARY/P.A. TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

A mature girl with first-class secretarial skills is sought by Managing Director of International business firm. Knowledge of Italian essential but not essential.

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SECRETARY/P.A. FOR INTERNATIONAL ART DEALER

DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

BELGRAVIA: Mature experienced nanny to look after baby from birth, mid-week, indefinite period. Own driving licence and television. Full time daily help. Ref: 01-235 6725

SLOANE 50: Married couple seeking part-time help for housework and general cleaning. Ref: 01-235 6725

SECRETARY: A highly competent German speaking Secretary is now required for the Chief Executive Director of the Fibres Division here in the U.K.

SECRETARY: Personable, well-educated career secretary (23-30) required to assist a busy partner in world-wide professional firm in the City (near Liverpool Street Station).

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FURNISHED PROPERTY

Perrier & Davies, 01-584 2323



To place an advertisement in any of these categories call: 01-837 3311

Table listing various services and their costs, including 'Business Notices', 'Domestic Situations', and 'Real Estate'.

BIRTHS

BERRY—On December 11th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Ann.

BIRTHDAYS

HIGGS, G. G. R. (born 1914). Celebrating 60th birthday.

MARRIAGES

CULOTT—On December 11th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Culott.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER—On December 11th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the death of Mrs. J. J. Alexander.

DEATHS

BAKING—On December 11th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the death of Mrs. J. J. Baking.

DEATHS

ROSEMARY—On December 11th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, the death of Mrs. J. J. Rosemary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Various notices and announcements including wedding invitations and public notices.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

Articles and columns such as 'WRITE YOURSELF A LITTLE HAPPINESS', 'HELP STOP THE WASTE OF YOUNG LIVES', and 'CANCER RESEARCH'.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

Advertisements for holidays, villas, and travel services, including 'HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS' and 'WORLD EXPEDITIONARY ASSOCIATION'.

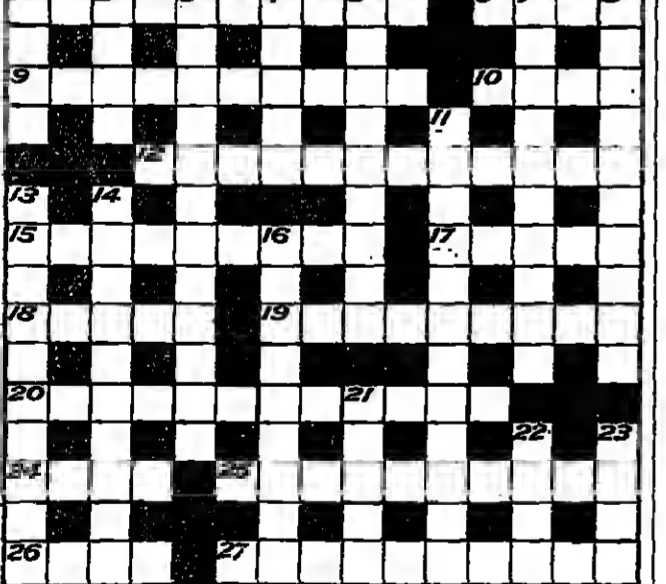
HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

Advertisements for holidays and villas, including 'WE'RE NO. 1 LOWEST RELIABLE DISCOUNT SCHEDULED AIRFARES'.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

Advertisements for holidays and villas, including 'GOOD VALUE JANUARY'S' and 'SKI SUPERTRAVEL'.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,866



ACROSS 1 Autumn account debts are just out true (10). 2 Heads back to the place (4). 3 Detached residence with 'main services' (10). 4 Type embraced by Tolly in (16).

NOT AN EASY PROBLEM

The world wide welfare work of the British Sailors' Society depends on your continued support.

ADVERTISING... CARE TAKEN... This advertisement received about 50 replies when booked on our successful series plan (3 consecutive days plus a 4th day free).

WANTED

My Silver and Gold coins... I am looking for... (Advertisement for a collector).

POWER PROBLEMS... GENERATORS FOR INDUSTRY... ALL SEAS BRAND NEW... (Advertisement for industrial generators).

CUT THIS OUT AND KEEP IT GOOD LIVING AND PEACEFUL WEEKEND

For the 'Bon Vivant' who also likes the peace and quiet of the country... PARKHILL HOTEL LYNDHURST HAMPSHIRE SO4 7FZ (Lyndhurst 2044)

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